

# Using Hand Mittens in Hospital

## Patient Information



The Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website is available on the link:  
<https://www.wwl.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets> or scan the QR code.

Author ID: AA  
Leaflet Ref: Corp 016  
Version: 7  
Leaflet title: Using Hand Mittens in Hospital  
Date Produced: August 2024  
Expiry Date: August 2026

## Using hand mittens in hospital

Seeing your relative in hospital may be distressing, particularly if they have tubes and attachments that may not always make sense.

These tubes are used to provide fluid, medication, and food for patients. If your relative is confused or restless, they may find it difficult to keep these tubes in. This can mean that the tubes are removed or dislodged by mistake.

### When will hand mittens be used?

The nursing staff will have tried other methods to try and keep these tubes in place, but sometimes hand mittens will need to be used for a short period to ensure that patients receive the treatment they need. It is distressing for patients to have tubes inserted again and again. Using hand mittens can help to stop this happening.

The decision to use hand mittens will only be made when it is felt by the team providing care to your relative that it is in their best interests. Where possible we will involve the patient in that decision, but sometimes they are not able to give their consent. Ideally you will have been shown the mittens before they are used, but occasionally we may need to put them on before you visit to ensure your relative receives the treatment needed to aid their recovery.



### How long will hand mittens be used for?

The use of the hand mittens will be reviewed daily by the team caring for your relative. There are guidelines available to the staff to ensure that they are used appropriately.

The hand mittens will be taken off regularly to check the patient's skin condition and give hand hygiene. This may be timed around your visits so that they can be removed when you are on the ward.

The hand mittens are checked regularly by the nursing staff to ensure they remain clean, if a hand mitten becomes soiled it will be removed and replaced with a clean one.

If you have any concerns about hand mittens being used for your relative or would like to discuss it further, please ask to speak to the nurse in charge of the ward.

---

## Comments, Compliments or Complaints

The Patient Relations/Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) Department provides confidential on the spot advice, information and support to patients, relatives, friends, and carers.

## Contact Us

Tel: 01942 822376 (Monday to Friday 9am until 4pm)

The Patient Relations/PALS Manager  
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Royal Albert Edward Infirmary  
Wigan Lane  
Wigan  
WN1 2NN

---

## Ask 3 Questions

Become more involved in decisions about your healthcare. You may be asked to make choices about your treatment. To begin with, try to make sure you get the answers to three key questions:

1. What are my options?
2. What are the positives and negatives of each option for me?
3. How do I get support to help me make a decision that is right for me?



---

## How We Use Your Information

For details on how we collect, use, and store the information we hold about you, please see patient information leaflet, Ref. **Corp 006** How we use your information, this can be found on the Patient Information Leaflets page on the Trust website, see details on the front cover.

This leaflet is also available in audio, large print, Braille, and other languages upon request. For more information, please ask in the department/ward.

---

© Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.  
All rights reserved. Not to be reproduced in whole or in part without the permission of the copyright owner.

**Call 111 first when it's less urgent than 999.**



EMPLOYER RECOGNITION SCHEME

**GOLD AWARD 2021**

*Proudly serving those who serve.*

Phone: 0808 802 1212

Text: 81212

[www.veteransgateway.org.uk](http://www.veteransgateway.org.uk)

