

Know where to get help

Keep this with the discharge instructions. Use local services for urgent assessment wherever you are. A message to the operating team is useful for sharing information, but should not delay care.

Seek emergency help now

- Sudden difficulty breathing, chest pain or collapse, particularly with leg pain or swelling.^[1]
- Sudden severe limb pain, or a newly cold or pale foot, or new marked weakness or loss of sensation. Do not wait for several symptoms to appear.^[3]
- After hip replacement, sudden severe hip pain with inability to put weight through the leg, even if it does not look deformed.^[6]
- Coughing up more than a few spots or streaks of blood, or blood with difficulty breathing, a very fast heartbeat, or chest or upper-back pain.^[5]
- A visibly deformed limb or a severe injury with an open wound.^[4]

Call local emergency services or go to the nearest emergency department. Do not wait for a remote reply or drive yourself when seriously unwell.

Arrange local assessment today

New one-sided calf or leg pain and swelling, fever or shivering after surgery, wound discharge, or redness and pain that are increasing need prompt local clinical assessment. A few small spots, flecks or streaks of coughed-up blood also need urgent assessment today. More blood or any accompanying emergency symptoms belong in the action above.^{[1][2][5]}

Use the agreed routine review

For non-urgent progress updates and questions about the plan, use the arranged appointment or routine contact. If symptoms change or you are unsure how urgent they are, seek local clinical advice.

Local emergency number and nearest emergency department

Local clinician / wound-review contact

Operating team routine contact

Companion contact and where the medicine list is kept

Supporting English patient guidance, checked 24 October 2026:

1. NHS: [DVT and pulmonary embolism](#).
2. NHS: [Complications after knee replacement](#).
3. Society for Vascular Surgery: [Acute limb ischemia](#).
4. NHS: [Broken leg](#).
5. NHS: [Coughing up blood](#).
6. South West London Elective Orthopaedic Centre: [Total hip replacement booklet](#), p. 34.