



**The Dudley Group**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Virtual Fracture Clinic  
Orthopaedic Outpatients Department  
Russells Hall Hospital  
Pensnett Road  
Dudley  
West Midlands  
DY1 2HQ

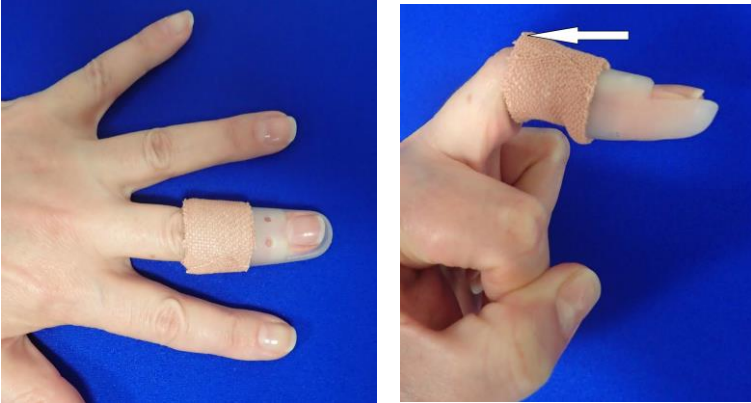
Telephone: 01384 456111 ext. 2220 or ext 3547  
Email: dgft.vfc.dudley@nhs.net

This is a follow-up letter to your recent telephone consultation with the fracture care team explaining the ongoing management of your injury. Your case has been reviewed by an Orthopaedic Consultant (Bone Specialist)

**You have sustained a mallet injury to your finger. This is an injury to the tendon that straightens the end joint of your finger. There is also a small break in the bone which is part of this tendon injury.**

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Healing:</b>           | This normally takes approximately 8- 10 weeks to heal.  |
| <b>Pain and swelling:</b> | Take pain killers as prescribed.  |
| <b>Using your hand:</b>   | Wear the splint all the time- see below for instruction on when to remove the splint. You may use the hand as pain allows.<br>It is important to keep the rest of the finger bending to stop it becoming stiff. The plaster should stop before the 2 <sup>nd</sup> finger joint (see below). If your splint does not fit snugly please contact us.<br>If your splint does not fit snugly please contact us. |
| <b>Follow up:</b>         | To ensure you are progressing as expected you will be reviewed in hand clinic in 2 weeks.   |

### Mallet splint on finger:



If you are worried that you are unable to follow this rehabilitation plan,

**Or**, if you are experiencing pain or symptoms, other than at the site of the original injury or surrounding area,

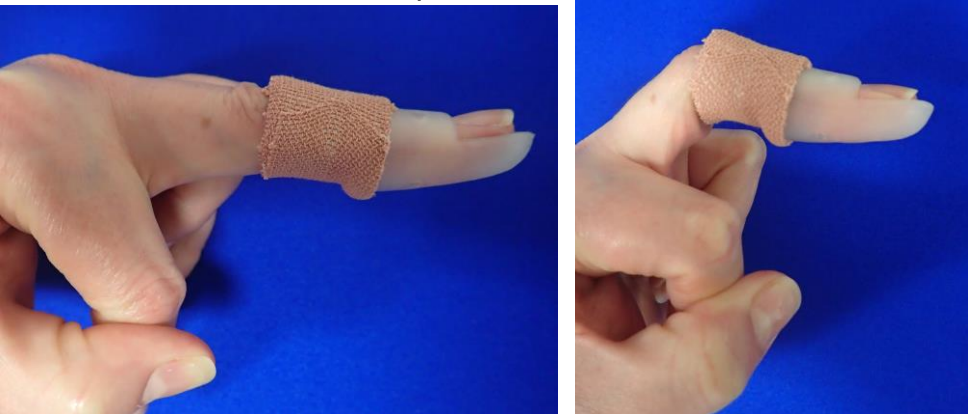
or have any questions, then please phone the Fracture Care Team for advice.

### Please follow the plan:

Weeks since injury	Plan
0-6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ You will be in a mallet splint</li> <li>✓ Remove the splint once a day to wash and air the splint- keep your finger straight on a table when you do this.</li> <li>✓ Do not bend the end of your finger</li> <li>✓ Move your other fingers often.</li> </ul>
6 -8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Use the splint at night only.</li> <li>✓ Start moving the end joint of the finger with your other hand.</li> <li>✗ Do not include that finger in any heavy lifting.</li> </ul>
8 -10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The injury has healed.</li> <li>✓ Stop using the splint.</li> <li>✓ You can begin to resume normal activity but be guided by any pain you are experiencing.</li> <li>✓ Carry out day to day activities.</li> <li>✗ Do not force the finger to bend.</li> <li>✗ If the fingertip droops down- re-apply the splint.</li> </ul>
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✗ If you are still experiencing significant pain and swelling then please contact the Fracture Care Team for advice.</li> </ul>

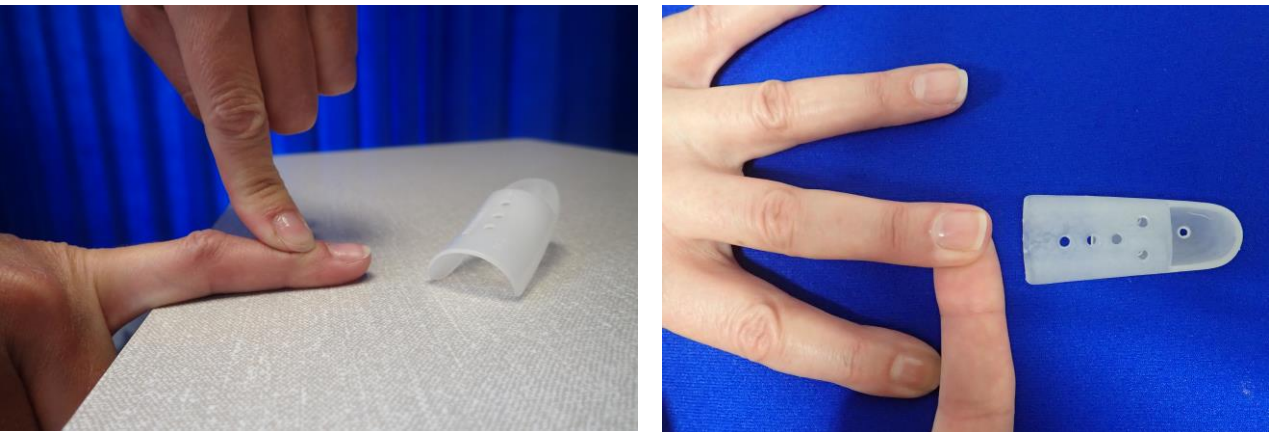
**Exercises:**

Do these exercises with the splint on:



Bend and straighten you finger below the level of the splint (the end of the finger must stay straight in the splint)

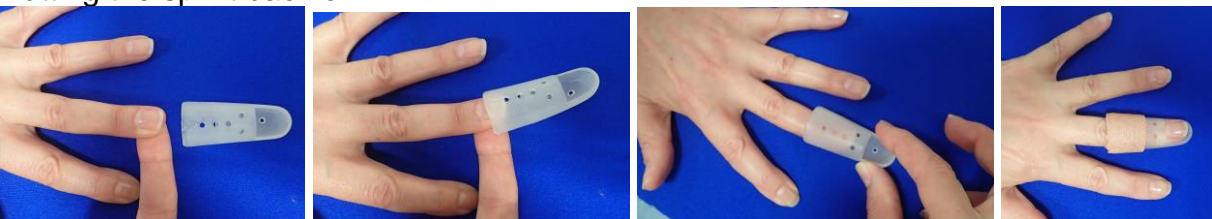
If you remove the splint to air the finger you must keep the joint straight like this.  
**DO NOT LET THE END OF YOUR FINGER BEND.**



Taking the splint off:



Putting the splint back on:



Keep the tip of the finger straight at all times when putting on the splint