

## Stock and Custom Orthotic Insoles

Information for patients

---



For a copy of this booklet in larger print, Braille, or your community language (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Urdu or Polish), please call 0131 536 9434.



## General information

Insoles may be prescribed for a variety of reasons. They can help to correct the alignment of your feet and legs and/or redistribute pressure to relieve painful areas and protect your feet from abnormal pressure. Proper alignment is important for balancing and distributing your body weight more evenly. This helps to reduce excessive pressure and stress on your feet, ankles, knees and other body parts.

In most situations, insoles are able to correct mild to moderate foot problems and reduce associated pain and protect feet from future problems. As each person is unique, so is each person's responses to treatment. As you adjust to this new and proper alignment, you may experience some discomfort. The adjustment period usually ranges from one to six weeks when the recommended wearing guidelines are followed.

Children will also experience this period of adjustment to wearing insoles. It is important that parents check their child's feet on an ongoing basis to take account of growth. As a rough guide, insoles will continue to fit for approximately two shoe sizes of growth.

## **Wearing**

Your insoles have been prescribed for you and they are intended for your use only.

Your insoles are designed to fit to the shape of your feet and may feel slightly 'strange' due to the realignment of the foot and pressure redistribution and will therefore need a gentle breaking-in period

## **Wear time**

- Start slowly, only wearing your insoles for a maximum of one hour on the first day, with low to moderate activities
- Increase the wearing time each day, by one to two hours until you are comfortable wearing your insoles all day
- Do not use your insoles during peak activities e.g. work or sports until you are comfortable wearing your insoles for several hours without discomfort
- If you experience any pain or discomfort, remove the insoles from your shoes for at least two to four hours and then try again. If pain persists, stop wearing them and make an appointment to see your Orthotist for an adjustment
- The greatest long-term benefits are achieved when you are consistent about wearing your insoles on a daily basis.

## Shoes

Select good shoes with proper support and always try them on with the insoles in place to ensure proper fit. Suitable fitting and supportive footwear is vital to the function of the insoles and overall comfort.

- The best type of shoes to wear with your insoles should: have a closed back and toe; come up over the top of the feet like laced-up sport shoes; be flat shoes; have a removable liner and a slightly wider width to accommodate the insoles
- Be sure to wear stockings or socks to minimize the possibility of skin irritation
- Ensure that the insole sits flat in the shoe and is not folded up or creased
- During use, ensure that footwear is secured as tightly as is comfortable
- Your insoles should be transferable between most of your shoes.

## Skin care

Check your feet carefully every day for any reddened or tender areas, which could indicate a problem with the fit of your shoes or the insoles. Please contact your Orthotist should you feel any prolonged discomfort, rubbing, or chaffing.

## Durability

A wide variety of materials are used to make insoles and enhance durability whilst providing the necessary comfort and support for your activity level. With most of the materials used today, your insoles should last about 12 months with moderate use and proper care. However, if the material on the bottom of your insoles gets worn down, or if your insoles break, contact the Orthotics Department immediately. Do not attempt to fix the insoles yourself.

## Care

- Clean your insoles at least once every two weeks to reduce bacterial growth using a damp cloth and allow to dry naturally in the air
- Avoid drying in direct sources of heat (such as on the heater or using a hair dryer)
- During the night, remove your insoles from the shoes to allow a natural drying process.

## Entitlement

- You will be issued with one pair of insoles initially
- We may agree to provide a second pair if appropriate after review, which may be by phone, approximately six weeks after your fitting appointment
- Insoles will be replaced if they are beyond repair or are no longer fit for purpose
- Careful monitoring of children's feet is needed with regard to growth. During periods of peak growth insoles may need an appointment to be replaced more frequently.
- If you need an appointment with your Orthotic Department, and have been seen in the past 2 years, you can contact them direct without a GP referral.

## Remember

**Please remember to bring your insoles when attending appointments with your Orthotist, even if they are worn out or no longer fit.**

If you have any questions about the type of insoles you have been recommended, please talk to your Orthotist.

Orthotist's name:

**The contact details for our department are:**

The Orthotics Department  
SMART Building  
Astley Ainslie Hospital  
133 Grange Loan Edinburgh  
EH9 2HL  
Tel: 0131 537 9418

Orthotics Office Ground Floor  
St. John's Hospital  
Howden Road West  
Livingston  
EH54 6PP  
Tel: 01506 522 108

Orthotics Office  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Old Out-Patients Department  
Western General Hospital  
EH4 2XU  
Tel: 0131 537 2436