

# TOE FRACTURE OR DISLOCATION



Lakeridge  
Health

## INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS

### WHAT IS A TOE FRACTURE OR A TOE DISLOCATION?

A toe fracture is a break in the bone of your toe. A toe dislocation occurs when the ends of the bones that make up the toe joint are forced from their normal position.

### HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO RECOVER?

The pain, tenderness and swelling in your toe/foot will gradually decrease over several weeks. Toe fractures are stable, meaning that you can weight bear (e.g. stand and walk) and move the joint without causing damage.

### ORTHOPEADIC BOOT INSTRUCTIONS

Your Doctor may advise you to wear an orthopaedic boot for a short period of time in order to protect your injured foot and to help with healing. The boot is adjustable so that it can be fit specifically for you.

### HOW TO FIT YOUR BOOT

1. Wear a long sock to prevent against friction that may cause skin breakdown.
2. Place your foot in the boot, making sure that your heel is at the back of the boot.
3. Overlap the side toe flaps first and then close the top flap over top. Do not pull the top flap so tight that it crowds your toes.
4. Place the plastic tongue on top.
5. Secure the plastic tongue by fastening the Velcro straps. The fit should be snug enough to provide support but not too snug that it compromises your circulation.
6. Use the pump to inflate or deflate the boot to ensure a supportive and comfortable fit



Step 1-2



Step 3



Step 4



Step 5

## OPTIMAL RECOVERY PLAN

TIME SINCE INJURY

0-72  
HOURS

- Rest and elevate your foot throughout the day.
- Apply ice to the injured area for up to 10-15min, every 3-4hrs. Allow skin temperature to return to normal before reapplication of ice. Protect your skin by wrapping an ice pack or frozen peas in a damp towel to ensure the ice is never in direct contact with your skin.
- Follow pain relief advice given by the Doctor you saw in the hospital, or consult your Pharmacist or Family Physician.

0-2  
WEEKS

- Continue to 'buddy tape' your toes, if advised by your Doctor.
- You are allowed to walk on your foot as long as it is not too painful.
- If you were given a boot, wear it while you are walking. You do not need to wear it when resting or sleeping. See instructions listed regarding how to fit your boot.
- Slowly wean yourself from using crutches, as able.
- Start the exercises listed.

2-6  
WEEKS

- If you were given a boot, reduce the amount of time you wear it.
- Gradually start to resume your normal activities. Continue with the exercises listed.

6-12  
WEEKS

- By now you should be returning back to your normal activities. You still might feel some discomfort with higher level activities, such as running.
- If you experience a significant increase in pain and/or swelling then reduce your activity levels and gradually increase the level of activity over a longer period of time.

# HOME EXERCISE PROGRAM

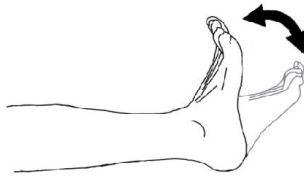
Early movement of your ankle and foot is important to avoid joint and muscle stiffness, promote circulation and reduce the risk of developing a blood clot. A list of exercises is provided below. You should do these daily to help with healing.

**Note:** The number of times you need to perform each exercise is included as a guide only. If you experience a significant amount of pain while doing a certain exercise then you should reduce the number of times you do that exercise, and gradually increase the amount during your recovery.

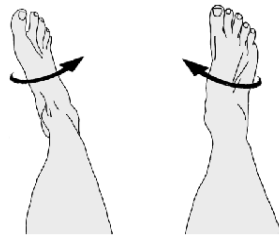
## ANKLE RANGE OF MOTION EXERCISES

Repeat each exercise 10 times, 3 times a day.

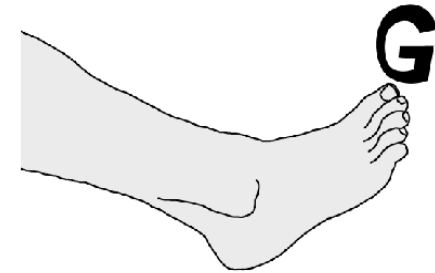
1. Point your foot up and down within a comfortable range of motion.



2. Turn your foot inwards so that your toes are pointing towards the other foot, then outwards so that your toes are pointing away from your other foot.



3. In the air, draw out the uppercase alphabet with your foot, ensuring that you are moving your ankle around in all directions.



For further advice and recommendations on exercises, please consult a Physiotherapist in your community. If you need a referral for Physiotherapy, please ask your Family Physician.

### Return to Sport

You should be able to squat, jump and run without pain before you return to sport. It is recommended that you see a Physiotherapist in your community prior to returning to any sport.

### Return to Driving

You should be able to perform a full emergency stop confidently and without pain before you consider returning to driving.