Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Occupational Therapy

# **Compression Garments for Hands**

A compression garment has been fitted for you on request from your doctor.

## **Compression Garments are used:**

- To maintain or improve efficient blood flow (circulation) back to your heart.
- To help prevent or decrease swelling.
- To prevent venous ulcers.
- To assist with scar management.
- To reshape muscle flaps and plastic reconstructive surgery.

#### When to Wear Your Garment:

• Wear your garment as indicated by your Occupational Therapist; Your wearing regime is:

#### **Care of Your Garment:**

- Wash your garment every second night for cleanliness and to make sure it remains a firm fit.
- Hand wash in lukewarm water with soft soap, rinse thoroughly and roll it up in a towel to dry out excess water. Hang the garment in the shade to dry.
- Do not use a dryer, heater or hang in the sun, as this damages the elastic.
- When putting your garment on, do not pull from the top as this will overstretch the material.
- Garments should last 6 months with correct care.

# **Helpful Hints:**

- The use of rubber gloves with textured finger pads can help you get a better grip on the garment when pulling it on or taking it off.
- If you are having difficulty getting your garment on by yourself, ask your Occupational Therapist about devices that may help.

### **Precautions**

- If you experience any pain, cramping, pins and needles, numbness or unusual skin changes, remove the garment and contact your Occupational Therapist (07 3646 7100).
- Do not fold your garment down at the top as this can tourniquet.
- Make sure that your garment does not wrinkle down during the day.

#### Please contact your therapist if you have any queries or concerns.

Therapist:

Phone: (07) 3646 7100

