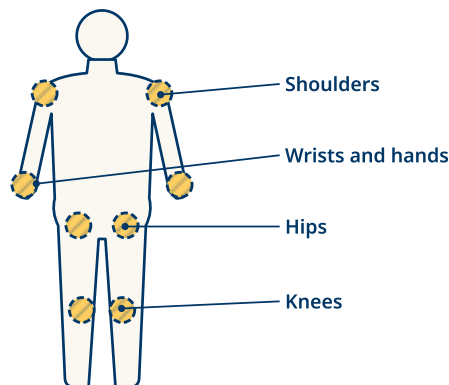


Joint Pain

What it is

Joint pain can come from wear and tear, an injury, swelling or overuse. It can affect one joint or many. Finding the cause helps guide your care.



Common symptoms

- Aching or sharp joint pain
- Swelling or warmth
- Stiffness
- Clicking, locking or instability
- Pain in several joints at once

Self-care tips

- Keep moving with gentle activity, like walking, biking or water exercise.
- Ice may help swelling. Heat may help stiffness. Use either for 15 to 20 minutes.
- A healthy weight may lower stress on your knees and hips.
- Ask us whether a cane, brace or better shoes may help.

What to expect at GSMC

At your visit: We ask about your symptoms and examine you.

Tests: You may need X-rays, an MRI or other tests. Not everyone needs them.

Your plan: We talk about your options, starting with the simplest steps. We decide together.

When to call us

- A hot, red, swollen joint, especially with fever
- You cannot put weight on the leg or use the joint
- Pain or swelling that keeps getting worse
- Locking or giving way that does not stop

Get care right away for a hot, swollen joint with fever, or after a bad fall or injury.

Call 732-202-3000

One number for all offices. Questions about this handout? We are glad to help.

Our 7 offices: Whiting · Toms River (Hooper Ave) · Brick · Barnegat · Manahawkin · Freehold · West Long Branch

gsmedicalcenter.org/conditions/joint-pain/



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This handout is general information and is not a substitute for medical advice.