

This is a story of a 34 year old Bolton patient called Danielle who had a hip replacement in October 2013. She would like to share her story –

'I was diagnosed with hip dysplasia in 2006 when I was 24 which left me bewildered, and very scared for my future and quality of life. I was referred to a consultant by my GP who was a specialist in Young People with Hip Displasia/oesteoarthritis who was based at Wrightington Hospital. This consultant also held a clinic at North Manchester General Hospital which I started to attend. It was so important to have this specialist department with the skills, research and the knowledge to help me, as it proved to me that I wasn't alone and enabled me to talk to other people with the same condition.

For years I managed to cope, but by 2011 I could only walk if I used double crutches as I was in crippling pain. I even had to register for a blue badge which you don't expect to have to do when you are in your late 20s! It was a dark time for me and I was on diclofenac painkillers. Eventually the time came when I had no other choice but to have a hip replacement. When the date of my operation came up, I was registered at a GP practice in Swinton under my parents' address but I was actually living in Bolton. This did lead to a bit of confusion after my operation.

The operation went well and I was told I could go home three days later. I was told I would need to contact the district nursing team to arrange for them to visit me at home while I was recovering, so they could check the wound at set intervals and remove the staples.

I rang the district nursing team in Swinton who said that because I was living out of the area I would have to contact Bolton's district nurses team. They then gave me the contact details for Bolton. I got through to Bolton District Nurses Team with ease and they put me on their books and started to visit me frequently. They were fantastic!

I was also told to contact Bolton's community equipment store in order to arrange delivery of all the vital disability aids I would need during my recovery so I could cope at home. My partner liaised with them while I was in hospital having my operation, and they dropped everything off at our house in Bolton. I was given a raised seat, raised easy chair, a 'grabber', sock aid, and toilet riser. I did not have a grab rail on my staircase at the time and had to pay for and organise the installation of this myself, as this did not come under the service provision of the equipment store. I needed this so I could feel safe getting about the house after my operation.

It has now been three years since my operation and I have recovered well with minimal scarring and I'm now living a healthy and active life."



Bolton

Clinical Commissioning Group