



Northern Care Alliance
NHS Group

Wound Care

An information guide



Wound Care

This leaflet contains discharge advice following your attendance to the Accident & Emergency Department (A&E) or Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC).

You have a wound which has been treated. The treatment method used depends on the type of wound you have and an appropriate dressing will also be covering the wound.

Looking after your wound

- You **MUST** keep your wound/dressing clean and dry – wash around it where possible
- If the dressing does get wet, you should contact the nurse at your GP surgery or contact a walk in centre
- You must **NOT** cover the wound/dressing with plastic bags or anything else which is waterproof – this will make the wound soggy, and can lead to infections and delayed healing
- Take painkillers such as paracetamol if needed
- If you have been given antibiotics, it is important that you take the full course

Sutures (Stitches)

Your wound has been sutured

- The sutures should be removed in days
- Contact the nurse at your GP Surgery to arrange for the sutures to be removed

Steristrips (Paper stitches)

- These can be removed indays
- You can remove these yourself by wetting them in water and gently peeling them off

Wound Glue

- If glue has been used, it does not need to be removed – it will drop off by itself when the wound is healed
- If the glue is on your head, **DO NOT** wash your hair for at least 2 days. **DO NOT** use a hairdryer until the glue has dropped off, as the glue may melt

What to expect

It is normal for there to be a small amount of redness and swelling around a healing wound. It can take up to a year for the scar to fade to its final colour.

What to look out for

You should contact/return to the A&E Department/ UTC you attended or see your GP if any of the following occur:

- The wound becomes very red or swollen
- The wound becomes very painful
- Pus leaks from the wound
- Steristrips or glue get wet or come off before the wound has healed
- The wound opens up

Tetanus

Tetanus is a serious infection which can occasionally get into the body via a wound. It can be prevented by a series of injections.

- You are covered against tetanus and do not need a booster today.....Yes/No
- You have received a booster injection against tetanus today. The same injection also protects you against diphtheria and polio. You should inform your GP of this.....Yes/No

A&E Department:

Fairfield General Hospital– 0161 778 2600

Notes:

If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Interpretation and Translation Service

Jeśli angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem i potrzebujesz pomocy, skontaktuj się z działem tłumaczeń ustnych i pisemnych

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو ، براہ کرم ترجمانی اور ترجمہ خدمت سے رابطہ کریں

Dacă engleza nu este prima ta limbă și ai nevoie de ajutor, te rugăm să contactezi Serviciul de interpretare și traducere

ইংরাজী যদি আপনার প্রথম ভাষা না হয় এবং আপনার সাহায্যের প্রয়োজন হয় তবে অনুগ্রহ করে দোভাষী এবং অনুবাদ পরিষেবাটিতে যোগাযোগ করুন

إذا لم تكن الإنجليزية هي لغتك الأولى وتحتاج إلى مساعدة ، فيرجى الاتصال بخدمة الترجمة الشفوية والتحريرية

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To improve our care environment for Patients, Visitors and Staff, **Northern Care Alliance NHS Group** is Smoke Free including buildings, grounds & car parks.

For advice on stopping smoking contact the Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 01706 517 522

For general enquiries please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) on 0161 604 5897


For enquiries regarding clinic appointments, clinical care and treatment please contact 0161 624 0420 and the Switchboard Operator will put you through to the correct department / service

The Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) is one of the largest NHS organisations in the country, employing 17,000 staff and providing a range of hospital and community healthcare services to around 1 million people across Salford, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale and surrounding areas. Our Care Organisations are responsible for providing our services, delivering safe, high quality and reliable care to the local communities they serve.

The NCA brings together Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust and the hospitals and community services of The Royal Oldham Hospital, Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, and Rochdale Infirmary (currently part of The Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust).

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