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 in .................. days
- 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
If English is not your first language and you need help, please contact the Ethnic Health Team on 0161 627 8770.

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.

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