

Post-operative wound care

Surgical Directorate Patient information

This leaflet gives advice for patients and their families following surgery.

It has information on wound care, your dressing and signs of infection. Take this and your discharge summary to any appointment about your surgical wound.

The following will help you care for your wound.

- You have the following antibiotics: Pre/during/post-surgery
- Antibiotics were not needed for your surgery.
Your surgical wound has been dressed with:
.....

What do I do with the dressing covering my surgical wound?

- Remove the dressing yourself in: days
- Make an appointment with the practice nurse in:
to have the dressing removed or re-dressed as advised.
- Other:

How was my surgical wound closed?

- Glue:** The glue will peel off in five to ten days. It can sometimes take longer. A dressing should not be used. Make sure not to pick or scrub the area and do not soak the cut. You may bathe and shower with care.
- Dissolvable stitches:** These dissolve in about seven to ten days. They will have a dressing. We will advise you when to remove this. You may gently wash the area once the dressing has been removed, but do not soak it.
- Non-dissolvable stitches:** These will need to be removed by:
in: days. Keep the area clean and dry.
- Other:

Please note: Do not use ointments or creams over, or around, the surgical site, unless advised otherwise.

What are the signs and symptoms of infection?

- Redness, hot and/or inflamed surgical area
- Increased swelling
- Discharge and/or bleeding
- Increased/worsening levels of pain
- Fever and/or temperature
- Unpleasant odour from surgical area

What increases the risk of a surgical site infection?

You are more likely to develop a wound infection if you:

- Are a diabetic
- Are a smoker
- Take steroids
- Are poorly nourished (have a poor diet)
- Have been in hospital for a long time before your surgery
- Had a blood transfusion before your surgery

What should I do if my wound becomes infected?

As with any surgery there is risk of infection. This would have been discussed with you. If this occurs, it happens within three to seven days following your surgery. If you notice any of the above symptoms or you are concerned, please contact the following as soon as possible.

Who do I contact for general advice?

Day of Surgery:

7am - 8pm Monday to Friday: **0300 019 2150/8095** (within 24 hours of discharge)

Ward A29 Left:

9am - 9pm Monday to Friday: **0300 0196104/6105** (within 24 hours of discharge)

Out of hours:

Call NHS 111

In hours:

GP surgery (after 24 hours)

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To ask for this leaflet in larger print, please contact the patient experience team on **0300 019 8499**
or email uhd.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net.

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