

# Wound Care

Emergency Department

## Introduction

This leaflet will advise you about how to care for your wounds, after you have received treatment in the Emergency Department.

## How will my wound be closed in the Emergency Department?

There are several different ways in which wounds will be closed. These include glue, wound closure strips and stitches.

## How will the clinician decide which method of closure to use?

The clinician will take several factors into account such as how the wound occurred, the depth and site of the wound and if there is any skin loss affecting the closure.

They will discuss which method they think is best and why. They will answer any questions you may have about this.

## Types of skin closure

### Stitches

These will usually be taken out in about 5 – 10 days; the doctor or nurse will let you know. You will need to make an appointment with your GP or practice nurse for this.

### Wound Closure Strips

These can be taken off in 5 – 7 days. You can remove these yourself by dampening the strips for about 10 minutes and carefully removing them.

### Glue

This is special medical glue that will drop off by itself when the wound is healed. Splashes of water are unlikely to cause problems with skin glue.

### Staples

These will usually be taken out in about 5 – 10 days; the doctor or nurse will let you know. You will need to make an appointment with your GP or practice nurse for this.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available
- If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.

## Do I need to keep the area dry?

- Keep the wound clean and dry for 5 days. Carefully wash around it where you can
- Leave any dressings on for 5 days

## What do I need to avoid doing?

- Cover the wound with anything waterproof unless the doctor or nurse tells you to – this can sometimes make the wound soggy and more likely to get infected
- Pick any scabs that form on the wound

## When do I need to get further medical advice?

- If any fluid or pus is seen coming from the wound
- It is painful, red or swollen
- If your wound reopens – there is only a small chance that this will happen

## Is there anything I can do to help with the scarring?

The redness from a wound will fade over a period of months. You will probably be left with a scar. You could massage the area with cream, after it has healed and is dry, to help minimize the scar that forms.

## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。