

Children's Emergency Department (CHED)

Wound care in children **Parents Information Leaflet**

Your child has a wound which has been cared for in the Emergency Department. Below is advice to support wound care, advise you on what to expect and when to seek additional medical attention.

The wound may have been treated using wound glue, steristrips, stiches and/or a dressing. The method used depends on the type of wound.

Wound care at home:

- Keep the wound dry and clean for 5-7 days.
- Provide simple painkillers like paracetamol and ibuprofen for pain.
- Follow the instructions below for the specific type of wound care that has been given.
- Do not swim for the first 5 days or until the wound has healed.
- Plastic coverings should only be used for short periods when bathing and washing. They make the wound damp or sweaty and can make the wound prone to infection.
- For wounds on the head do not wash your hair for 5 days. Do not comb or brush near the wound.

Glue

Medical glue is a particular type of glue designed to treat wounds. Glue can be used with or without the addition of steristrips. The glue holds the edges of the wound together. The glue does not need to be removed. Keep the wound clean and dry for 5 days. The scab that the glue forms will come away once you start washing the area.

There is a small chance that the wound will re-open. If this is the case, please come back or see your GP or walk in centre.

Do not pick the glue.

Steristrips

Please leave the strips on for Days

To remove them moisten them for about 10 minutes and strips can be carefully removed by peeling from each end towards the wound.

There is a small chance that the wound will re-open. If this is the case, please come back or see your GP or walk in centre.

Do not pick the steristrips.

Dressings

You will have been advised on how long the dressing needs to be in place; this is usually not more than 2-3 days. If it needs to be changed, we will provide you with/advice you on what to use for this and when this needs doing. You may be able to do this yourself or we may advise that this is done at the GP surgery.

If the dressing or bandage gets wet or dirty it should be replaced.

If the wound bleeds through the dressing please seek advice from your GP or the Emergency Department.

Sutures (stitches)

We may use sutures that need to be removed or sutures that are dissolvable. If the sutures need to be removed this can be done by the practice nurse at your GP surgery. Please make an appointment at the surgery for this to be done.

..... **Sutures were inserted. These sutures were dissolvable / non-dissolvable*** (* delete as appropriate)

The sutures need to stay in for..... days.

Signs of infection

Look out for signs of infection.

- Increased redness
- Swelling
- Surrounding area hot to touch
- Increased pain
- The wound oozing, leaking or smelling
- The wound edges are not healing together.

If you are worried about infection, please see your GP or return to the Emergency Department.

We aim to provide the best care for every patient. So, we would like your feedback on the quality of the care you have received from the Hospital. Please visit:

<https://www.nnuh.nhs.uk/patients-visitors/give-us-your-feedback/complete-a-survey/>

Or scan QR code:

