

Dear Patient:

Proper care of your incision will decrease the risk of post-operative wound infection. You **MUST** look at your incision everyday. You may find that using a mirror helps to better view the entire incision. You should also have one other person who will check your incision daily for any changes.

Daily Incision Care

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after touching your incision.
2. Remove the bandage before bathing.
3. You may shower or tub bathe daily. Use clean towels daily.
4. You may use a cool hair dryer to dry your incision after bathing.
5. To keep folds of skin off your incision site, you may use a clean bandage or pad over your incision.
6. Keep your incision clean and dry.

Care of the Drain and Incision Site

- You may have 1 or 2 small openings near your incision where a drain was removed. Follow the directions below to clean these areas.
- If your incision site is draining when you go home, you will need to change the bandage when it is wet.

NOTE: Leaving a wet bandage on your incision increases the risk of infection.

1. Wash your hands with soap and water before and after changing the bandage.
 2. Remove the wet bandage.
 3. Clean the site gently with soap and water.
 4. Dry thoroughly.
 5. Cover the site with a clean bandage. If the bandage is not self-adhesive, cover the bandage with tape.
- When your incision or drain site is no longer draining, you may discontinue using a bandage.

Infection

If you have **any** of the following, call your doctor immediately.

- Skin area at or around the incision is red, warm, and firm to touch.
- An increase in bruising. Some initial bruising after surgery is normal.
- Yellowish, green or foul smelling drainage from your incision.
- Temperature greater than **100.4°**.
- Increase in the severity of pain.

Special

Instructions: _____