



Spire Children and Young
People's Service

Patient information

Caring for surgical wounds

This leaflet provides some information about caring for your child's surgical wound at home. There are many different types of surgical wounds, so you should always follow the instructions of your child's consultant.

Please raise any concerns or questions with your child's consultant or nurse. It is natural to feel anxious before hospital treatment but knowing what to expect can help.

The information contained in this leaflet is not intended nor implied to be a substitute for professional medical advice nor is it intended to be for medical diagnosis or treatment.

	Children's Ward: 0161 447 6914
	Out of Hours: 0161 447 6677
	info@spiremanchester.com
	www.spiremanchester.com



Spire

Manchester Hospital

Surgical wounds

A surgical wound is the cut made in the skin during an operation. At the end of the operation, most cuts are stitched or glued together to allow the skin edges to come together and heal.

Dressings

Not all surgical wounds need dressings. The purpose of a dressing is to:

- Absorb any leakage from the wound
- Provide ideal conditions for healing
- Protect the area until the wound is healed
- Prevent stitches catching on clothing

Dressings typically stay on for 7 to 10 days. These can then be removed. The healing wound can then be left without a dressing.

Stitches and glue

Other methods used to close a wound include adhesive dressings or tapes. Stitches are usually dissolvable and don't need to be removed, they will usually disappear on their own in 7 to 10

days. Special skin glue can be used and will usually peel off in 7 to 10 day.

Bathing and showering

It is usually possible for your child to have a bath or shower 24 hours after surgery, however, if skin glue is used this may be 48 hours. Your child's nurse will advise you at discharge. Showering is usually preferable to bathing and soaking in the bath for long periods is usually not advised.

Contact the hospital if your child develops any of the following symptoms:

- Wound site becomes more painful
- Wound site looks red, inflamed or swollen
- Wound site leaks or weeps liquid, pus or blood
- Wound site smells unpleasant

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the paediatric team on 0161 447 6914 or main reception on 0161 447 6677.

Spire Manchester Hospital does not have an accident and emergency department therefore if your concerns are of a serious nature please seek immediate medical attention from your local accident and emergency department.