

Wound Care Instructions

Brown Health Services Patient Education Series

You have an injury that requires care. Please read the following instructions so you know how to care for the wound.

Laceration/Abrasion aftercare:

- Apply antibiotic ointment (e.g. Bacitracin) and a clean Band-Aid or dressing daily for 48 hours.
- You may clean gently with mild soap and water
- You may shower if your provider gives permission but do not take a bath until the skin is healed. Remove the dressing before your shower.
- Gently dry the area, reapply antibiotic ointment and put on new dressing.
- Never leave a wet dressing on your wound as this may promote infection.
- Most cuts and scrapes heal on their own within 7 to 10 days. As your cut or scrape heals, a scab will form. Be sure to leave the scab alone and not pick at it.

Watch for signs of infection:

- Increasing redness, tenderness or warmth around the site
- Unusual swelling around the site
- Appearance of pus or any red streaks
- Fever

If you develop any of the above signs or symptoms of infection, please call Health Services at 401-863-3953 for advice, or an appointment to be evaluated.

Burn aftercare:

- Apply antibiotic ointment (e.g. Bacitracin) vaseline or prescription medication as directed by your provider.
- If directed by your provider, apply clean dry gauze daily for 48 hours.
- You may clean gently with mild soap and water after 24 hours
- You may shower if your provider gives permission but do not take a bath until the skin is healed. Remove the dressing before your shower.
- Gently dry the area, reapply ointment and put on new dressing (if applicable).
- Never leave a wet dressing on your wound as this may promote infection.

If you have any questions about your injury, please call the nursing line (401)863-1330 for 24 hour/7days a week advice.

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www.brown.edu/health 401-863-3953

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