

Emergency Department

Wound Care

Keep the dressing clean and dry – wash around it where possible.

Sutures (stitches)

Sutures should be removed after five to seven days. The doctor or nurse will advise you on the exact number of days. Your GP practice nurse can remove the sutures.

Steristrips

Keep the steristrips dry and clean. Steristrips can usually be removed after five to seven days. For some wounds we leave them for longer. The wound should be moistened for about 10 minutes and the strips carefully removed. The removal of steristrips can be done at home or by your GP practice nurse.

Glue

Medical glue does not need to be removed, as the glue will drop off by itself when the wound is healed. Keep the wound clean and dry for five days; a scab will form around the wound, which will come away once you start washing the area.

Do not pick the scab: there is a small chance the wound will reopen. Don't worry; come back to the Emergency Department or visit your GP and your wound will be reassessed.

The scar will take at least six months to fade.



Patient Information

Infection

If antibiotics are needed for your injury they will be prescribed. Infection is a risk in any wound.

Signs of infection include:

- Increasing pain and tenderness;
- Redness spreading from around the wound;
- Discharge of infected fluid;
- A fever.

If you have any concerns contact your own GP.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6200 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

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