

## General Surgery

# Abscess cavity wound care information

Following incision (cut) and drainage, your wound cavity will be packed, and a dressing will be applied. Your wound has not been closed with stitches or glue. This is to allow it to discharge (weep) any contents.

Your wound will require regular dressings with your practice nurse at your GP surgery or at the Coventry Urgent Treatment Centre, postcode CV1 4FS, open daily 8am-10pm. This will be required every 1 to 2 days until the abscess cavity has resolved and packing materials can no longer be inserted into the abscess. Further instructions will be provided by your nurse.

If your abscess has burst by itself, apply a dressing, then make an appointment with your practice nurse to review its healing and follow their advice.

### Caring for your wound

Once the wound is packed:

- It is important to keep your wound clean and dry. Avoid soaking your wound in the bath. Leaving it wet can increase the risk of infection.
- Discuss with your nurse if you can remove the dressing and bath before attending the appointment for repacking.
- Do not use talcum powder, perfume, or perfumed soaps on your wound.

Please contact your GP if the wound becomes:

- Red or inflamed (swollen or hot to touch).
- Your wound/discharge smells.



## Patient Information

### **Nutrition**

We recommend you eat a healthy balanced diet including fruit and vegetables and drink plenty of fluids. Good nutrition will help your wound to heal. Taking a supermarket A-Z multivitamin supplement will also encourage wound healing.

### **Pain relief**

We recommend you take over-the-counter pain relief, such as paracetamol for pain. Please read the packaging instructions.

Aspirin-based painkillers **are not** advisable as they can increase the risk of bleeding/bruising. If you take aspirin as a routine medication, please continue unless directed otherwise by your doctor/practitioner.

### **If bleeding occurs**

Bleeding is uncommon, but if your wound bleeds heavily, apply pressure directly to the area which is bleeding (if necessary, using clean material).

If the bleeding does not stop, attend your nearest Urgent Treatment Centre.

### **Returning to work**

Your wound size, position, and any procedures you may have had will determine when it will be safe for you to return to work. Ask your doctor for advice before your discharge. If necessary, a sick note can be issued by your doctor.

If you have any concerns or problems following your procedure, please contact:

**Surgical Assessment Unit (SAU, Ward 12) at University Hospital Coventry**

Telephone 024 7696 6996 (open 24 hours, 7 days per week)

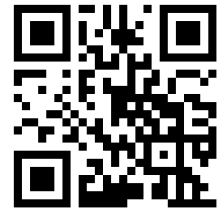
## Patient Information

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 6185 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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#### Document History

Department:	General Surgery
Contact:	26185
Updated:	May 2023
Review:	May 2026
Version:	1.2
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2710/22