

Incision Care and Infection Prevention

You will be going home with a surgical bandage in place. Wash your hands often, keep the incision clean and dry, and check on the incision and bandage daily to help prevent infection. If you suspect an infection, contact your surgical team immediately. You will be sent home with instructions that are specific to the type of incision you have and the type of bandage used. Follow those instructions carefully. Here some additional reminders about incision care and infection prevention.

Monitor your incision closely for signs and symptoms of infection, such as

- Redness, swelling, heat, or drainage from incision
- Temperature over 101
- The incision has opened up

Please call your surgery team right away if any of the above happen.

Reminders for your incision

- Keep area clean and dry
- Wash hands before and after touching the incision
- Gently pat the incision dry
- Do not scratch or rub the incision
- Do not apply any creams, salves, ointments, or powders unless told to do so
- Inspect incisions every day for signs of infection like swelling, pus, or color changes. If you are not able to see the incision yourself, make sure you have a family member or caregiver look at the incision daily.
- Wear clean, loose-fitting clothing and pajamas, change clothes daily
- Sleep on clean sheets, wash sheets weekly
- Do not let pets sleep in your bed while healing
- Do not soak the area or have it under water until released by surgical team
- Avoid hot water/direct water to site
- If the bandage becomes wet or dirty, take it off and replace it.