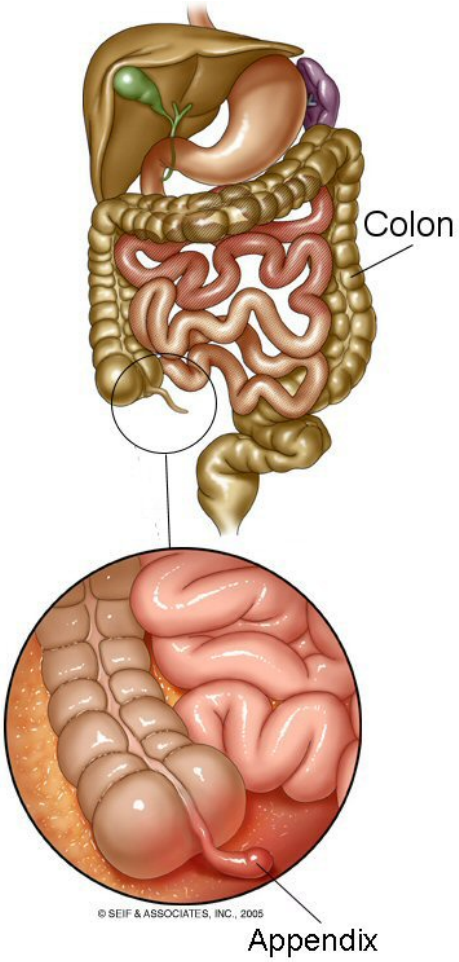
Appendectomy, Child
Care After Surgery

Please read the instructions outlined below and refer to this sheet in the next few weeks. These discharge instructions provide you with general information on caring for your child after leaving the hospital. Your surgeon may also give you specific instructions. While treatment has been planned according to the most current medical practices available, unavoidable complications occasionally occur. If you have any problems or questions after discharge, please call your surgeon.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS AFTER YOUR CHILD'S SURGERY (APPENDECTOMY)

- Once your child is home an ice pack applied to the operative site may help with discomfort and keep swelling down.
- Change dressings as directed.
- Only give your child over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by their caregiver.
- Your child may continue normal diet as directed.
- There should be no heavy lifting, strenuous activities, rough housing or contact sports for three weeks, or as directed.
- Keep the wound dry and clean. The wound may be washed gently with soap and water. Gently blot or dab dry following cleansing without rubbing. Do not allow your child to take baths, use swimming pools or use hot tubs for ten days, or as instructed by your caregiver.
- Call your caregiver if you have any questions following your child's operation that we have not answered, or that you have become worried about.
- It is important to follow up with the surgeon about having your child's sutures removed.



SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound area.
- Pus is coming from the wound.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 101º F (38.3º C) develops.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- A breaking open of the *wound* (edges not staying together) after sutures have been removed.
- Your child develops increasing abdominal pain.
- Your child has an intolerance to food.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- Your child develops a rash.
- Your child has difficulty breathing, or develops any reaction or side effects to medications given.

Document Released: 08/01/2005 Document Re-Released: 10/15/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.