Wound Care

Wound care helps prevent pain and infection. There is a greater chance of infection if:

- The wound breaks open the skin (*puncture*).
- The wound is deep.
- You or your child has diabetes.
- You or your child has a weakened system because of:
  - Chemotherapy.
  - Radiation therapy.
  - Illness.

HOME CARE

- Rest the injured area until the pain and puffiness (*swelling*) are better.
- Keep the injured area above the heart (*elevated*) until the pain and puffiness are better.
- Clean the wound daily with mild soap and water.
- Use a bandage to protect the wound.
- If told to do so, apply antibiotic cream after you clean the wound.

YOU MIGHT NEED A TETANUS SHOT IF:

- You cannot remember when your or your child's last tetanus shot was.
- You or your child has never had a tetanus shot.
- The object that caused the wound was dirty.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- You or your child has a temperature by mouth above 102° F (38.9° C), not controlled by medicine.
- Your baby is older than 3 months with a rectal temperature of 102º F (38.9º C) or higher.
- **Your baby is 3 months old or younger with a rectal temperature of 100.4º F (38º C) or higher.**
- You see fluid coming from the wound.
- There is pain that is not helped by medicine.
- The wound stops the fingers or toes from being able to move (if the wound affects these areas).
- You see red streaking of the skin above or below the wound.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch this condition.
- Will get help right away if you or your child is not doing well or gets worse.

Document Released: 09/26/2009 Document Re-Released: 03/14/2011
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.