Open Wound, Forearm

An open wound is a break in the skin because of an injury. An open wound can be a scrape, cut or puncture to the skin. Good wound care will help to:

- Reduce pain.
- Prevent infection.
- Reduce scaring.

HOME CARE

- Rest and raise the injured arm on a pillow. This will help keep the swelling down.
- All bits of dirt must be washed off.
- Wounds should be cleaned daily with gentle soap and water.
- Apply antibiotic cream or ointment (as instructed by your doctor) after the wound has been cleaned.
- A clean dressing may be need to be applied daily.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- Increased redness or swelling in or around the wound.
- Increasing pain.
- You or your child have 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.**
- A pus-like drainage from the wound.
- Severe pain not controlled with non-prescription or prescription pain relievers.
- Not being able to move fingers.
- Not able to feel with your fingers.
- Red streaking of the skin extending above and/or below the wound.

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

Document Released: 03/16/2010 Document Re-Released: 10/15/2010
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.