Toe Avulsion
(Loss of the Tip of the Toe)

A toe avulsion is a loss of a portion of your toe. If a portion of your toenail is left, often times a new nail will grow back on. Sometimes the new nail may be deformed. If just the tip of the toe has been lost, often no repair is needed unless there is bone showing. When this happens, sometimes the only thing that need be done is to cut back the protruding bone and put a dressing on. Your caregiver will do what is best for you. Most of the time when a toe tip is lost, the end will gradually heal, but may be sensitive for a long time.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Keep your foot elevated to relieve pain and swelling.
- Keep your dressing dry and clean.
- Change your bandage in 24 hours.
- After your bandage is changed, soak your foot in warm, soapy water for 10 to 20 minutes. Do this 3 times per day. This helps reduce pain and swelling. After soaking your foot, apply a clean, dry bandage. Change your bandage if it is wet or dirty.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- See your caregiver as needed for problems.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have increased pain, swelling, inflammation (redness & warmth), drainage, or bleeding.
- An oral temperature above 102º F (38.9º C) develops, not controlled by medication.
- You have swelling which spreads from your toe and into your foot.

If you did not recall today when your last tetanus shot was, check with your caregiver and get a tetanus shot. Or, if necessary, get the shot when you return for follow-up care.

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