Wound Infection

A wound infection happens when germs (*bacteria*) grow in a wound. Germs can get into a wound through a cut in the skin.

HOME CARE

- Rinse the wound with warm, soapy water. Do this twice a day or as told by your doctor.
- After washing, gently pat the wound dry with a soft, clean towel. **Do not** rub the wound. This may cause bleeding.
- Your doctor may prescribe a medicine (*antibiotic*) that will help kill the germs in the wound.
- Apply a bandage or antibiotic ointment to the wound as told by your doctor.
- Only take medicine as told by your doctor.
- Be sure to take all of the medicine.
- **Do not** sit in a bath to soak your wound.

GET HELP RIGHT AWAY IF:

- The wound has a bad smell.
- The wound has yellow or green drainage coming from it.
- The wound puffs up (*swells*) more.
- There is more redness around the wound.
- The wound is more painful.
- 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.**
- More of the wound breaks open.

Return to your doctor's office to have the wound rechecked as told.

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.

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