Incision and Drainage (I & D)

Incision and drainage is a procedure in which a cavity-like structure (*cystic structure*) is opened and drained. The cyst to be drained usually contains material such as pus, fluid, or blood. Gauze is sometimes packed into the cut (*incision*). Keeping a drain or piece of gauze in the incision keeps the skin from healing first. This helps stop the cyst from forming again.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver. **Use these only if your caregiver has not given medicines that would interfere.**
- When you bathe, remove the gauze drain after soaking. You may then wash the wound gently with mild soapy water. Pack the area again with fresh gauze as directed by your caregiver.
- See your caregiver as directed for a recheck.
- If medicines (*antibiotics*) that kill germs were prescribed, take them as directed.

SEEK MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You develop increased pain, swelling, redness, drainage, or bleeding in the wound.
- You develop signs of an infection. These signs include muscle aches, chills, or a general ill feeling.
- You have an oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C).

MAKE SURE YOU:

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

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