Chemical Burn Care Instructions

Your skin is a natural barrier to infection. It is the largest organ of your body. Because of your exposure to a chemical, a burn has resulted and the skin's natural protection has been damaged. Your skin may be reddened and may have blisters. To help prevent infection, it is very important to follow these instructions for the care of your burn.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Wash the exposed clothing immediately and do not allow the chemical to touch your skin.
- Wash hands well, before and after changing your bandage.
- Remove old bandage. (If bandage sticks to burn you may soak it off with cool, clean water).
- Cleanse thoroughly but gently with mild soap and water. Rinse well.
- Pat dry with a clean, dry cloth.
- Apply a thin layer of *anti-bacterial* (anti-germ) cream to the burn.
- Apply clean bandages as shown to you in the Emergency Department.
- Keep dressing as clean and dry as possible.
- Elevate affected area (such as hand or foot) for the first 24 hours, then as instructed by physician.
- Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.
- If your caregiver has given you a follow-up appointment, it is very important to keep that appointment. Not keeping the appointment could result in a chronic or permanent injury, pain, and disability. If there is any problem keeping the appointment, you must call back to this facility for assistance.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You have excessive pain.
- You have increased redness, tenderness, swelling, or red streaks near the burn.
- You have the appearance of pus.
- You develop a temperature over 102º F (38.9º 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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