Balanitis

Balanitis is an infection, redness or soreness of the head (*glans*) of the penis. It is more common in males who are not circumcised. It can be caused by an infection with yeast, germs (*bacteria*) or viruses. It can be caused by drug reactions, injury, friction, or poor hygiene. Symptoms include a red rash, swelling, and pain. A culture may be needed to find the cause and proper treatment.

Keep the penis and foreskin clean. Take warm water sitz baths 2-3 times daily for 20 minutes to soothe the affected area. Topical antibiotics, anti-fungal, or cortisone medicines may be used. Serious infections may require medications which kill germs (*antibiotics*). Call your caregiver if the condition is not improved within 2-3 days.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- You are unable to urinate.
- There is a fever.
- You notice an increase in pain, swelling, or redness.

Document Released: 01/25/2006 Document Re-Released: 01/06/2009
ExitCare® Patient Information ©2011 ExitCare, LLC.