Staple Removal

Your caregiver has used staples today to repair a wound. Staples are used to help a wound heal faster by holding the edges of the wound together. The staples can be removed when the wound has healed well enough to stay together after the staples are removed. A *dressing* (wound covering), depending on the location of the wound, may have been applied. This may be changed once per day or as instructed. If the dressing sticks, it may be soaked off with soapy water or hydrogen peroxide.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF:

- There is redness, swelling, or increasing pain in the wound.
- Pus is coming from wound.
- An unexplained oral temperature above 102° F (38.9° C) develops.
- You notice a foul smell coming from the wound or dressing.
- The wound edges break open after staples have been removed.

Only take over-the-counter or prescription medicines for pain, discomfort, or fever as directed by your caregiver.

If you did not receive a tetanus shot today because you did not recall when your last one was given, **check with your caregiver when you have your staples removed to determine if one is needed.**

Return to your caregivers office in 1 week or as suggested to have your staples removed.

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