

Wound Care

Call your child's regular doctor NOW (night or day) if your child:

- Looks or acts very sick.
- Is limp or very weak.
- Cries uncontrollably for more than an hour.
- Has a temperature over 104° F (40°C) or feels very hot at any age.
- Is less than 3 months old and has a temperature over 100.3° F (38°C)
- Has severe increasing pain that does not go away or is not relieved by the pain medicine.
- Has numbness or swelling around the wound.
- Cannot move the joint that is close to the wound.
- Has red streaking from the wound area.

Call your child's regular doctor if:

- Your child has a temperature greater than 100° F (37.8°C) for more than 48 hours.
- Your child has any of these signs of infection:
 - More pain, swelling, or redness
 - Pus or a bad smell in the wound or on the bandages
- Your child has drainage from the wound

Always give your child medicine as directed by medical providers. If you think it is not helping your child or if you feel your child is having side effects, call your child's medical providers. Make sure your child takes any antibiotic until it is all gone or until you were told to stop the medicine, even if he she feels better.

What You Can Do to Help:

- You may give your child ibuprofen or acetaminophen for the pain as instructed by the medical provider.
- If your child received a tetanus shot, the shot site may get swollen, red, and warm. This is normal.
- Keep your child's bandage clean and dry. Do not soak the wound or allow your child to go swimming. If the wound is on your child's hand, do not let him or her wash dishes.
- If the bandage gets wet and needs to be changed, unwrap it slowly and carefully. If it sticks or starts to hurt, use water to loosen it gently. Pat the area dry with a clean towel before putting on another dressing.
- If your child has a scalp wound, keep your child's hair dry for the first 24 hours. After this time, you may wash your child's hair gently as needed until the stitches are removed.