

Discharge Information: Staple Care

This information sheet aims to answer any questions you may have about your care after discharge.

Keep the wound clean and dry

It is important to keep your wound dry, especially for the first 24 hours.

For scalp wounds, you can wash your head gently in the shower with shampoo ensuring that you gently pat the wound dry immediately after.

For other wounds, you can gently wash in the shower with soap ensuring that you gently pat the wound dry immediately after.

Do not soak the wound or swim until the staples have been removed.

Pain relief

Simple medication such as paracetamol or ibuprofen is effective in reducing pain from simple wounds. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on the bottle/box for dosing.

Signs of infection

In most cases antibiotics are not required. Thorough wound cleaning prior to closure has been shown to reduce the risk of infection.

If you develop any signs of infection contact your GP/return to the Emergency Department (cross out the non-applicable). Signs of infections are redness, swelling, increased pain, excessive or persistent ooze, pus or smelly discharge or fever within 48 hours of suturing.

Removal of staples

If staples fall out before their removal date see your doctor. Please contact your GP surgery to book an appointment to have your staples removed by your GP or practice nurse.

Staples should be removed in days

Remember to take your STAPLE REMOVER with you to the appointment!

If you have any concerns relating to your wound please contact your GP, the Emergency Department or phone Health Direct on 1800 022 222.

For more information

Emergency Department
Flinders Medical Centre
Flinders Drive
Bedford Park SA 5042

Telephone: 08 8204 5042
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au

Emergency Department
Noarlunga Hospital
Alexander Kelly Drive
Noarlunga Centre SA 5168

Telephone: (08) 8384 9288

If you require this information in an alternative language or format please contact SA Health on the details provided and they will make every effort to assist you.



This document has been reviewed and endorsed by consumers.