

# Incision Care After Surgery

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## How do I take care of my child's surgical incision (cut made during surgery)?

- Please review your child's after-visit summary (AVS) – available printed or online through the [MyUofMHealth.org](https://myuofmhealth.org) patient portal - for specific instructions from your surgeon.
- Keep the incision site dry for 48 hours.
  - After 48 hours, wash the area every day with mild, non-perfumed soap and rinse gently with water.
  - Avoid soaking the area or placing the site directly under water pressure.
- If your child's surgeon used skin glue to close their incision, this will look like clear nail polish on the skin. You can simply leave the skin glue alone until it peels or flakes off. It is okay to get the skin glue on the incision wet, pat it dry, and leave it open to the air.
- If your child has a dressing in place, your surgeon will tell you when to remove this and how to take care of site. Make sure to check your AVS for details, as your child will have their own specific instructions.
- Watch for signs of infection, like increasing pain, redness, swelling, separation of the skin at the incision site, or discharge (leaking fluid).

## When should I call the clinic?

Call the clinic if your child has any of these concerns:

- A fever of 101.5° F or higher
- Any swelling, redness, or bruising that gets worse very quickly
- Severe or increased pain that is not managed by pain medication

- Any side effects to medications, such as rash, nausea, headache, or vomiting
- Any yellow or green draining fluid from the incision
- A bad smell around the incision
- Bleeding from the incision which does not stop when you put light pressure on the area

### **What is the contact information?**

- Please call the clinic nurses at (734) 936-5730 on Monday through Friday between 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.
- On weekends or after 5:00 pm, call (734) 936-6267 and ask for the resident Otolaryngology doctor on call.

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