

# Care after your child's wound closure from an injury

Children's Emergency Department

Last reviewed: October 2024

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Information for Patients, Parents & Carers

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## What has been used to close my child's wound?

Your child has had a wound closed after an injury. There are different types of wounds and we have different ways of treating them. Your child's wound may have been closed with:

- **Steristrips** - these are sometimes called paper stitches. These can be taken off in 7 to 10 days. To remove them dampen the steristrips for a few minutes and carefully remove them.
- **Glue** - this is special medical glue that will drop off by itself when the wound is healed.
- **Stitches** - some wounds need stitches to hold the skin together while it heals. This means big wounds can heal faster and leave less of a scar. Some of these are dissolvable and some will need removing.

If you have not been told that your child's stitches are dissolvable, then they will need to come out after the wound is healed. This doesn't usually hurt, but can cause your child some worry, especially as a small knife/ scissors will be used to cut the stitch (but not the skin). If your child is worried or scared, please let the nurse know. This is not uncommon and they have lots of ways to help to deal with this.

- Sometimes we leave a wound **open** to heal on its own. This may be for a number of reasons and we will explain why we are doing this if we feel it's best for your child.

## How do I care for the wound at home?

**Do:**

- keep the wound clean and dry for at least 5 days.
- leave any dressings on for 5 days.

**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

**Don't:**

- don't cover the wound with anything waterproof unless the doctor or nurse tells you to. This can sometimes make the wound soggy and more likely to get infected.
- don't pick any scabs that form on the wound.

**Please remember:**

- It may take up to 6 months or more for the redness of the scar to fade.
- Itching is common while healing. Simple moisturisers may help.
- When in the sun, apply sunblock over the healing area to help reduce scarring.

**What do I need to look out for?**

Please return to the Children's Emergency Department if:

- any fluid comes out from the wound.
- the wound becomes painful, red or swollen.
- the wound re-opens.

**Contact details**

If you have any concerns you can contact the NHS helpline on 111 for advice.

**Giving us your feedback**

We would love to get some feedback on your visit today. Use your smart phone to scan this QR code for quick access to our online feedback survey form.



Alternatively, you can access the feedback form from our website:

<https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/thinking-of-choosing-us/patient-experience/>

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