

## Wound Care

### Contact Details

If you have any questions please telephone the RUH Emergency Department on

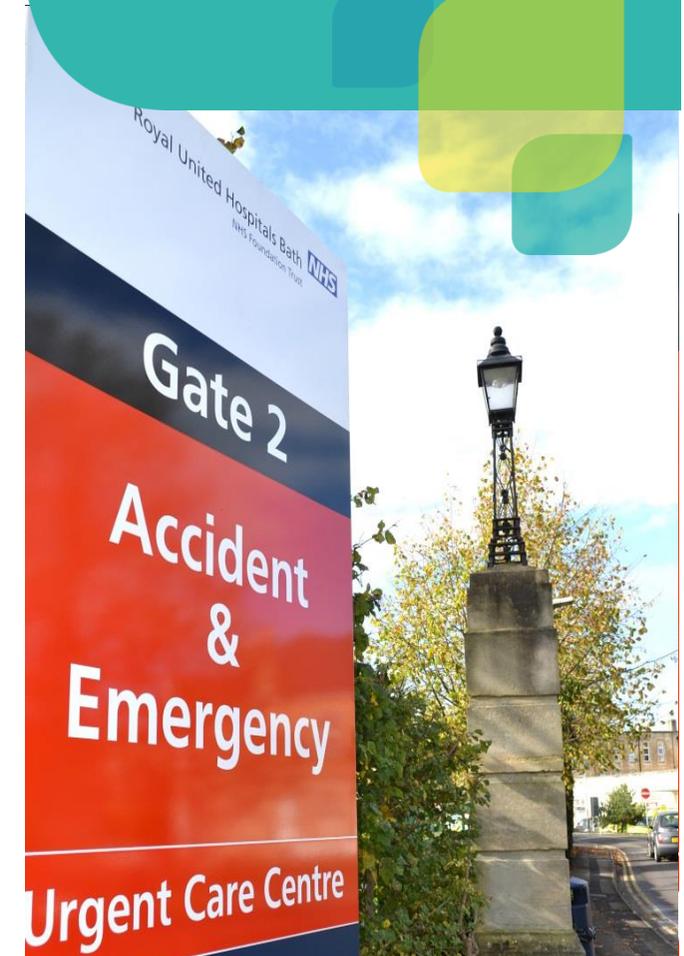
**01225 824000 (day)**  
**01225 825015 (night)**

Royal United Hospitals Bath  
NHS Foundation Trust  
Combe Park, Bath BA1 3NG  
01225 428331 [www.ruh.nhs.uk](http://www.ruh.nhs.uk)

Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) if you require this leaflet in a different format, or would like to feedback your experience of the hospital.

Email [ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net](mailto:ruh-tr.PatientAdviceandLiaisonService@nhs.net)  
or telephone 01225 825656.

Date of publication: May 2017  
Ref: RUH EMD/042 v2  
© Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust



## Wound Care

Your wound may have been treated by suturing (stitches), Steri-strips (Butterfly plasters) or glue (a special medical glue). The method depends on the type of wound.

Keep the wound dry – wash around it where possible.

**DO NOT** cover with waterproof finger stalls, plastic bags, etc. unless advised as this will make the wound soggy and prone to infection.

**DO NOT** pick any scabs that form on the wound.

## Stitches

Sutures will normally be removed in 5-10 days, depending on the type of wound. The nurse or doctor will advise you when they need removing. They will normally be removed by the Practice Nurse, you are responsible for making this appointment.

## Steri-strips

Steri-strips should not be removed. They will start to lift and fall off as the wound heals. Trim back loose ends as they lift.

## Medical Glue

Wound glue does not need to be removed; the glue drops off by itself when the wound is healed.

## Infection

**Despite the best of care, there is a small chance that your wound may get infected.**

To reduce the chance of infection follow these instructions:

- Elevate and rest the injured area.
- Bandage Care – Keep your dressing clean and dry and follow any specific instructions given by the nurse.
- Medicine – If you have been given antibiotics, take the full course as prescribed. If you have been given painkillers, take them as prescribed.

Be alert to signs of infection and seek medical help if:

- There is redness, swelling or tenderness.
- There is pus draining from the wound
- There are tender lumps in your groin or armpit.
- There are red streaks going up your arm or leg.
- You have chills or fever.

Please remember it may take 6 months or more for the redness of the scar to fade.

**Please retain this leaflet for future reference.**