

## **SUTURES AND STAPLES: AFTER PROCEDURE CARE**

### **What are sutures and staples?**

Sutures (stitches) and staples are used to close wounds or surgical incisions.

### **Aftercare:**

Keep the area dry for the first 24 after stitches have been placed. After this, you can start to gently wash around the site 1 to 2 times daily. Don't soak the cut, such as in a bathtub. Wash with water and soap. Clean as close to the stitches as you can. Dab the site dry with a clean towel.

DO NOT wash or rub the stitches directly.

### **Important Tips:**

Prevent the wound from re-opening by keeping activity to a minimum.

Make sure your hands are clean when you care for the wound.

If the laceration is on the scalp, it is ok to gently shampoo and wash.

The patient can take pain medicine, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, for wound site discomfort.

Follow-up with your provider to make sure the wound is healing properly and for removal.

### **When are sutures and staples removed?**

The time for removal will depend on the site of the wound. The physician should let you know when to return to our office for removal at the end of the procedure.

### **Call our office or schedule an appointment if:**

- \*Patient develops a fever of 100.4 or above.
- \*Increased redness, pain, or swelling develops around the wound.
- \*Pus-like drainage is coming from wound.
- \*Bleeding occurs at the injury site and will not stop after 10 minutes of direct pressure.
- \*Pain at the site will not go away, even after taking pain medicine.
- \*Wound has split open.
- \*Sutures or staples have come out too soon.