

Skin Graft Care

For All Skin Grafts

Watch for signs and symptoms of infection.

- Redness (about 1 inch wide) and swelling around the burn.
- Foul smelling drainage from the wound.
- Flu-like symptoms.
 - Fever over 100.4° by mouth for two readings 4 hours apart
 - Chills
 - Nausea
 - Vomiting
 - Muscle aches
- Increasing pain that is not relieved by pain medicine.

Care of a Skin Graft with or Without a Bolster or Splint

- Keep the graft elevated to prevent swelling which could damage the new skin graft.
 - Keep the bolster or splint dry. You may clean around the bolster site by sponge bathing with mild soap and water.
 - Take your prescribed medicine to control pain.
 - Activity guidelines:
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Care of a Skin Graft After First Dressing is Removed

- Wash with mild soap and water starting on _____.
- Apply moisturizing lotion _____ to keep new skin from drying or cracking. Air out graft for _____.
- Apply Wound Veil to graft site.
- Wrap graft with non-stretch roller gauze.
- Apply compression _____.

Who to Call

For question Monday through Friday 8 am - 5 pm please call the General Surgery and Burn Clinic at **608-264-8040**.

After hours call the burn unit nurses at **608-263-1490** or call **608-262-2122** and ask to have the burn resident paged.

If you have non urgent questions after hours, you can leave a message the for the triage nurse at **608-263-7502**. The toll-free number is: **1-800-323-8942**.

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 8/2019 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#4404.