Reducing the incidence of wound infections

Pre-assessment clinic,
Benjamin Weir Ward

What to do if you think your wound is infected
If you are concerned about your wound or are displaying any of the signs and symptoms mentioned please call the ward immediately
The number to contact is:

0208 725 1508 or 1509

You will be directed to the nurse in charge who may ask you to come in for a wound review. If this is not possible then it may be necessary for you to book an appointment with your GP.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Contact details
Senior Sister Victoria Morrison
Junior Charge Nurse Daniel Weegman
Lead for Surgical Site Infections Caroline Riccio
Pre Assessment Nurse Tracy Knight & Helen Norton
Benjamin Weir Ward
Tel: 020 8725 1508/1509

St George’s Healthcare NHS Trust
St George’s Hospital
Blackshaw Road
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SW17 0QT
Tel: 020 8672 1255
Website: www.stgeorges.nhs.uk
Welcome
Welcome to St George’s Hospital - we hope that your stay is as comfortable and short as possible.

Please feel free to ask any questions that you may have, in the pre assessment clinic or on your admission to Benjamin Weir Ward. The Senior Sister for the ward is Victoria Morrison, the Junior Sister is Kate Fincham and the lead for Surgical Site Infections is Caroline Riccio.

Infections
Most infections are caused by bacteria or viruses in the air. It is important to realise that most will not do us any harm. However, after an operation our bodies natural defences are weakened which make us more susceptible to infection.

It is our top priority to try and minimise the risks of you getting an infection. Please let us know if there are any areas of the ward that are not clean. Visiting hours are restricted to 3-8pm to minimise the spread of infections. Visitors are also asked to take a chair from the day room instead of sitting on the patients beds.

How you can help
Every precaution is taken to prevent the occurrence of infections and working together we can reduce the chance of you getting a wound infection.

Please wash you hands after using the toilet. Please wash your hands with soap and water or wipe your hands with wet hand wipes before every meal.

Please do not touch your wound dressings; the nurses will manage your dressing changes. If your dressing is uncomfortable please ask the nurse to change it to make it more comfortable for you. It is important that you do not touch your wounds after the dressings are removed. All staff should clean their hands either with soap and water or hand gel before touching your dressing. It is alright for you to ask staff if they have washed their hands and if you experience any problems please inform the nurse in charge as soon as you can.

Please do not allow any family or friends to touch your wounds and ask all your visitors to use the hand gel on entering and leaving the ward.

Your assistance in this is very much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding this information sheet please ask the nurse looking after you.

Signs of infection to look out for when you go home
In 2006 a survey was carried out into the development of wound infections post surgical procedures. It was found that 5% of patients developed a surgical site infection. However, we take steps to avoid surgical site infections where possible. Wound infections can occur both in hospital and at home so below are some signs and symptoms to look out for when you go home:

- Redness around the wound site
- If the wound feels hot
- Increased wound pain
- Increased wound swelling
- Fever
- New discharge from the wound