

# Post-Neurosurgery Wound Care in Children

This leaflet explains about the care to give to your child's wound after neurosurgery. If you have any further information, please contact the clinical nurse specialists for paediatric neurosciences (CNS).

## Type of surgery:

### Closure of wound:

Your child has **absorbable** sutures. These will be absorbed into the body in around 2 to 8 weeks and then the external part will drop off.

Your child has **clips or staples**, these will need to be removed. This can be done at the GP surgery, or the CNS can do this. See date of removal.

Your child has **non-absorbable** sutures which will need to be removed. This can be done by the GP or the CNS team. See date below.

### Date of removal of sutures / clips:

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You can remove the dressing in \_\_\_\_ days. Your child can have a gentle hair wash in \_\_\_\_ days. Please use gentle / baby shampoo and don't scrub the wound directly. Gently pat dry with a clean towel and you can use a hair dryer on a cooler setting if you wish.

### Additional information:

*(return to school, sports etc)*

### Signs / symptoms of infection:

- Redness / angry looking around the wound site
- Swelling / puffiness around the wound site
- Fever / high temperature
- Stiff neck
- Fluid coming out of the incision (either clear fluid or yellow / pus like)
- Feeling sick with or without vomiting
- Headache
- Sensitivity to light (photophobia)
- Abdominal pain (for shunt insertions)
- Generally feeling unwell.

**An infection needs urgent attention, please contact the team to arrange a review. If out of hours (evening or weekend), seek urgent medical attention (out of hours GP or local A&E).**

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's wound, please contact

### **Clinical Nurse Specialists in Paediatric Neurosciences**

(Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm)

Telephone: 020 8725 2649

E-mail: [paedneurocns@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:paedneurocns@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

**For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit [www.stgeorges.nhs.uk](http://www.stgeorges.nhs.uk)**

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## Additional services

### **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

PALS can offer you advice and information when you have comments or concerns about our services or care. You can contact the PALS team on the advisory telephone line Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2pm to 5pm.

A Walk-in service is available:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between 10am and 4pm

Friday between 10am and 2pm.

The Walk-in and Advisory telephone services are closed on Wednesdays.

Please contact PALS in advance to check if there are any changes to opening times.

PALS is based within the hospital in the ground floor main corridor between Grosvenor and Lanesborough wings.

**Tel:** 020 8725 2453 **Email:** [pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

### **NHS UK**

The NHS provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make decisions about your health.

**Web:** [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### **NHS 111**

You can call 111 when you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Calls are free from landlines and mobile phones.

**Tel:** 111

## AccessAble

You can download accessibility guides for all our services by searching 'St George's Hospital' on the AccessAble website ([www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)). The guides are designed to ensure everyone – including those with accessibility needs – can access our hospital and community sites with confidence.



**Reference:** NEU\_PWC\_01 **Published:** April 2025 **Review date:** April 2027