



Saint Elizabeth


Your Wound: Signs and Symptoms of Infection

Why should I be concerned about an infection?

Anyone can get a wound infection, but you are more likely to get one if:

- your immune system is not functioning well, due to diseases like diabetes or cancer;
- you have had catheters and intravenous (IV) lines; or,
- you were in hospital for a long period of time.

**Know the following signs and symptoms of infection.
Look for these signs each time you change your dressings.**

 <p>Call your NURSE at _____ if you have:</p>	 <p>Call your DOCTOR at _____ or go to your nearest EMERGENCY ROOM if you have:</p>
<p>Increased, thick or yellow/green pus or drainage from the wound</p>	<p>Fever or chills</p>
<p>Warmth/heat or redness around the wound that was not there before</p>	<p>Weakness</p>
<p>Increasing pain from or around the wound</p>	<p>Rapid heart beat</p>
<p>Swelling</p>	<p>Confusion or difficulty concentrating</p>

If you are concerned but not sure how serious the symptom is, call your nurse.



Other signs to report to your nurse or doctor:

- If you not able to follow your treatment plan
- If your wound gets larger or deeper
- If your wound does not begin to show signs of healing
- If you are not eating a balanced diet
- If your overall health is getting worse

Tips for Preventing Infection

- Always wash your hands before and after you change your dressing.
- Keep your supplies clean and sealed between dressing changes.
- Tell your nurse or doctor about any bleeding, pus, hardness, swelling, odor or color change as soon as possible.