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### Home Care for Skin Grafts

**Practice good hand hygiene – always wash your hands thoroughly with an antibacterial soap before changing the dressing or touching your wound to apply medication.**

- You will notice a yellow bandage sewn over the skin graft. This bandage is to stay in place until you return to our office.
- **Leave this yellow bandage clean and dry until you return to our office!**
- Please keep the surgical site elevated as much as possible. Relaxing in a recliner or sleeping on a couple extra pillows may be helpful. This will help keep the swelling down.
- **You can expect some discomfort after the anesthesia wears off.** Two extra strength Tylenol taken every 4 hours will reduce the pain. **IF** Tylenol does not reduce the pain to a tolerable level, please call us.
- Skin grafts take several weeks to fully heal. Your wound may take 6-8 weeks to fully heal and in some cases longer.
- **DO NOT** do any bending over, stooping or lifting for the first 2 days after the surgery. Bending over and lifting heavy items increases the blood pressure and may increase swelling or induce bleeding.
- **IF** the pressure dressing becomes saturated with blood, call our office immediately. This means if you can see blood coming through the pressure dressing.
- **DO NOT** drink alcohol or smoke for several days after the surgery. Alcohol is a blood thinner and could potentially make the area bleed.
- Please call our office if the wound appears worse instead of better including increased redness, inflammation or drainage that becomes pus-like.
- Be sure to call the office if you think that the surgical site is not healing properly, or if you experience signs and symptoms of an infection such as redness, swelling, drainage or oozing of the site or if the site feels warm to the touch.