

# Discharge Instructions Following a Craniofacial Procedure

At home, watch for signs and symptoms of infection near the surgical incision. Also look for changes in neurological status. If you notice any of the following symptoms, contact Telehealth Nursing (651-229-3890).

## Signs and Symptoms of Infection

- Excessive heat or warmth at incision
- Redness or streaks near the incision
- Drainage such as pus—yellow or green—or clear fluid from incision
- Foul or musty odor from incision
- Increased soreness not relieved by pain medicine
- Fever of 101.5 F or higher

## Neurological Status Changes

- Behavioral changes
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Loss of consciousness or change in alertness
- Disorientation (confusion)
- Visual loss
- Weakness in arms and/or legs
- Numbness or tingling in arms and/or legs
- Nausea/vomiting
- Difficulty with speech

If you notice symptoms that are likely the result of a common illness, you can contact your primary care physician.

You might notice bruising and swelling around the eyes. If so, don't force the eyes open.

## Activity

Your child may resume most normal activity, as tolerated. However, no swimming or contact sports are allowed until your child's surgeon provides approval.

## Bathing/Washing Hair

Your child may bathe or shower. You may use shampoo to gently wash hair. Do not vigorously scrub the incision for two weeks. It might take a few gentle shampoos to remove dried drainage from the surgical incision.

## **Diet**

Your child may resume a normal home diet.

[Make An Appointment](#) **651-290-8707** [Refer a Patient](#) **651-325-2200**

This information is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to replace the advice of your health care providers. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor or others on your health care team.

If you are a Gillette patient with urgent questions or concerns, please contact Telehealth Nursing at [651-229-3890](#).