

Discharge Instructions Following a Shunt Procedure

Following your shunt procedure, you will need to be observed for any changes in neurological status. You need to watch for signs and symptoms of incisional infection.

When to Call Gillette

Call Telehealth Nursing at 651-228-3890 if any of the following conditions are present:

Neurological Status

- Symptoms of increased intracranial pressure including: double or blurred vision, scalp veins extended and/or swelling along shunt lines, nausea and/or vomiting, lack of appetite, seizure activity
- Behavioral changes
- Irritability
- Dizziness
- Headache
- Loss of consciousness or change in alertness
- Stomach pains
- Disorientation (confusion)
- Visual loss
- Weakness in arms and/or legs
- Numbness or tingling in arms and/
 - or legs
- Difficulty with speech
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Change in activity or work performance

Signs and Symptoms of Infection

- Swelling or tenderness along the shunt tract
- Heat or warmth at incision
- Redness or streaks near the incision
- Drainage such as pus – yellow or green –

- or clear fluid from incisions
- Foul or musty odor from incision
- Increased soreness, pain not relieved
- by pain medicine
- Fever of 101.5° F or higher

Activity

As tolerated.

Bathing/Shampoo

- May bathe or shower
- May shampoo. It may take a few gentle shampoos to remove dried drainage

Diet

Resume normal home diet.

[Make An Appointment](#) [651-290-8707](#)

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](#).