



**Bradford Teaching Hospitals**  
NHS Foundation Trust

Maxillofacial Unit • Patient Information Leaflet

# Advice for Patients Following Skin Surgery



1. Following facial skin surgery most patients have some stitches. These will need to be removed after five to seven days. Your doctor will discuss with you where this should be done.
2. We will provide you with some ointment for you to smear on the wound twice a day. Other than using this ointment, it is best if the wound is left open to the air.
3. It is usual to have some bruising after such surgery. If the wound bleeds slightly it is helpful to apply pressure with a clean, folded cotton handkerchief to the wound for approximately 15 minutes.
4. If you are concerned about your wound you can contact the Department on the telephone numbers below.
5. There will be some scar tissue after the operation, it is usual for this initially to be red, but becomes paler with time and this may take up to 12 months. The scar area may appear lighter or paler in patients with pigmented skin.
6. Please keep the wound dry for 48 hours (two days) following the operation. Following this, you may bath or shower as usual. However, in the area of operation please use a dry towel to pat the area dry – DO NOT RUB THE WOUND.
7. If you have some discomfort we are happy that you take some painkillers. If you take paracetamol-containing painkillers, please do not exceed the dose stated on the bottle / packet.

8. If you are worried about your post-operative condition, please contact:

- Oral & Maxillofacial Unit 01274 365200 Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
- Oral & Maxillofacial SHO on call via switchboard 01274 542200 – Monday to Friday 5.00pm to 9.00am and all weekend.
- We use Next Generation Text for people with hearing difficulties. To contact us ring 18001 before either of the above numbers.

## Wristbands

When you are in hospital it is essential to wear a wristband at all times to ensure your safety during your stay.

The wristband will contain accurate details about you on it including all of the essential information that staff need to identify you correctly and give you the right care. All hospital patients including babies, children and older people should wear the wristband at all times.

If you do not have a wristband whilst in hospital, please ask a member of staff for one. If it comes off or is uncomfortable, ask a member of staff to replace it.

## Smoking

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a smoke-free organisation. You are not permitted to smoke or use e-cigarettes in any of the hospital buildings or grounds.

If you need this information in another format or language, please ask a member of staff to arrange this for you.

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