**Post Operative Instructions – Circumcision**

Any operation on your child can be a worrying time. Hopefully, this information will give you some guidance and peace of mind.

**Pain**

Pain is not usually a big problem after a circumcision. There is usually increased sensitivity of the head of the penis, therefore try to prevent any clothes rubbing or touching this area for several days. Pain can usually be controlled with Tylenol and Motrin in an alternating fashion.

**Stitches**

There will be some small, white stitches around the circumference of the penis along the wound edge just behind the rim of the head of the penis. These usually disappear in a week or two. You may give the genital area a rinse with a shower within the first 48 hours after surgery, though avoid soap. It is safe to begin short baths (< 10 min) two days after surgery, as the wound is usually sealed by then.

**Dressings**

Your child's penis will be dressed with antibiotic ointment and gauze wrap. It is quite common, however, for the dressing to be pulled off at an early stage by wondering hands! Don’t worry if this occurs. If there is no dressing, apply Vaseline to the penis with every nappy change or, for potty-trained children, leave dry. If the dressing is still adherent after 2 days, try soaking off in the bath. If it fails to fall off by the third day after surgery, please notify our nurses.

**Healing**

Circumcisions typically heal very quickly. It is normal to see some bruising, swelling, and oozing of blood onto the underwear for a day or two. Abnormal bleeding usually occurs on the underside of the penis. Any heavy or persistent bleeding, i.e clots in the underpants should be brought to our attention immediately. In the meantime, try applying gentle pressure to the site of bleeding using a Kleenex. This technique usually stops the bleeding, but it is sometimes necessary to stitch the wound.

**Infections**

Infections after circumcision are unusual. A thick, adherent yellowish film frequently forms on the head of the penis after penile surgery. The film is a normal part of healing and should not be confused with pus, which is runny.

Baths are very important for healing. Once you have begun bathing your child, gently clean the penis with a soft cloth to remove the build-up of dried blood and yellowy film.

**Worries**

If you have any questions, or if something doesn't seem right, please call the nurses during regular business hours (8 am to 5 pm). Don't wait until the afternoon to call, especially if you think your child might need to be seen, as the office closes at 5pm.

**Follow-Up**

There is generally a follow-up appointment in 3-4 weeks after surgery.