

What do I need to do when I go home from the hospital?

- Before you go home, your doctor or nurse should explain everything you need to know about taking care of your wound. Make sure you understand how to care for your wound before you leave the hospital.
- Always clean your hands before and after caring for your wound.
- Before you go home, make sure you know who to contact if you have questions or problems after you get home.
- Clean your clothes and bed sheets daily to prevent contaminating the dressing or wound.
- Prevent excess perspiration by using fans or an air conditioner to help keep the dressing or wound clean.
- If you have any symptoms of an infection, such as redness and pain at the surgery site, drainage, or fever, call your doctor immediately.

If you have additional questions, please ask your doctor or nurse.



If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact Infection Prevention and Control.

Parkview Regional Medical Center
260-266-1177

Parkview Hospital Randallia
260-373-4488

Parkview DeKalb Hospital
260-920-2757

Parkview Huntington Hospital
260-355-3318

Parkview LaGrange Hospital
260-463-9048

Parkview Noble Hospital
260-347-8527

Parkview Ortho Hospital
260-672-4055

Parkview Wabash Hospital
260-569-2292

Parkview Whitley Hospital
260-248-9408



FAQs

(Frequently Asked Questions)

Preventing Surgical Site Infections

The Parkview logo, consisting of a green grid pattern to the left of the word "PARKVIEW" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

What is a Surgical Site Infection (SSI)?

A surgical site infection is an infection that occurs after surgery in the part of the body where the surgery took place. Most patients who have surgery do not develop an infection. The following evidence based interventions help to reduce your risk of developing a surgical site infection.

Some of the common symptoms of a surgical site infection are:

- Redness and pain around the area where you had surgery
- Drainage of cloudy fluid from your surgical wound
- Fever

What are some of the things Parkview is doing to prevent SSIs?

To prevent SSIs, doctors, nurses, and other healthcare providers:

- Clean their hands and arms up to their elbows with an antiseptic agent just before the surgery.
- Clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer before and after caring for each patient.
- May remove some of your hair immediately before your surgery using electric clippers. They will not shave you with a razor.
- Wear special hair covers, masks, gowns, and gloves during surgery to keep the surgery area clean.
- Give you antibiotics before your surgery starts, IF indicated.

- Prepare the skin at the site of your surgery with a special cleanser that kills germs.

Can SSIs be treated?

Yes. Most surgical site infections can be treated with antibiotics. The antibiotic given to you depends on the bacteria (germs) causing the infection. Sometimes patients with SSIs also need another surgery to treat the infection.

What can I do to help prevent SSIs?

Before your surgery:

- Tell your doctor about other medical problems you may have and the medications you take. Health problems such as allergies, diabetes, and obesity could affect your surgery and your treatment.
- If you have diabetes, blood sugar control is an important factor in determining your risk for infection. Talk with your doctor about your current level of blood sugar control.
- Quit smoking. Patients who smoke get more infections. Talk to your doctor about how you can quit before your surgery.
- You may be asked to shower the night before and morning of your surgery with a special cleanser that reduces the amount of microorganisms on your skin. It is important to follow the directions carefully, applying the product from chin to toe for the directed amount of time. You may need to have help with hard to reach areas. If your physician did not suggest a specific product, you should help reduce

microorganisms by using an antibacterial soap such as Dial or Lever 2000.

- Increase fluid intake and eat nutritiously. Lose extra pounds, if possible.
- Do not shave with a razor near where you will have surgery. Shaving with a razor can irritate your skin and make it easier to develop an infection.
- Put on clean clothes after showering, both the night before and morning of surgery, and use clean sheets and blankets.

At the time of your surgery:

- Clippers may be used to remove hair near the surgery site. Speak up if someone tries to shave you with a razor. Ask why you need to be shaved and talk with your surgeon if you have any concerns.
- Ask if you will get antibiotics before surgery. Not all surgeries need pre-op antibiotics.

After your surgery:

- Make sure that your healthcare providers clean their hands before examining you, either with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.

If you do not see your providers clean their hands, it is okay to ASK them to do so!

- Family and friends who visit you should not touch the surgical wound or dressings.
- Family and friends should clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before and after visiting you.