

**Patient Discharge Instructions  
for Penetrating Traumatic Wounds  
Dressing with PACKING**

**Please see your local doctor or return to the ER if you have any signs of infection.** These signs may include:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F
- Redness of the area around the wound
- Warmth of the area around the wound
- Increased pain at the site of the wound
- Any yellow or green drainage from the wound
- Red streaks on the skin around the wound

**If your wound has packing, please follow these instructions:**

You may shower and let soapy water run over your wound. Pat dry with a clean wash cloth or towel. Using a Q-Tip, pack the wound with gauze or strips moistened with saline. Make sure the moist gauze comes in contact with the entire base of the wound. Leave a small part of the dressing outside the wound. Cover wound with non-adherent gauze. Change your dressing twice a day. Once your wound is too small to pack, you can cover the wound with Bacitracin and a non-adherent dressing and change your dressing twice daily.

**If you have any concerns about your wound healing, please call your primary care doctor for follow up.**

**Trauma Clinic Phone Number: 615-343-1616**

VANDERBILT  UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL CENTER

DIVISION OF TRAUMA & SURGICAL CRITICAL CARE

**Patient Discharge Instructions  
for Penetrating Traumatic Wounds  
Dressing with NO PACKING**

**Please see your local doctor or return to the ER if you have any signs of infection.** These signs may include:

- Fever greater than 100.4 F
- Redness of the area around the wound
- Warmth of the area around the wound
- Increased pain at the site of the wound
- Any yellow or green drainage from the wound
- Red streaks on the skin around the wound

**If your wound DOES NOT have packing, please follow these instructions:**

You may shower and wash your wound with soap and water. Pat dry with a clean wash cloth or towel. Apply a thin layer of bacitracin ointment over the wound and cover with a clean, non-adherent dressing. Change your dressing twice a day.

**If you have any concerns about your wound healing, please call your primary care doctor for follow up.**

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## Dressings for Traumatic Wounds (not violating the fascia)

### Wound Packing Criteria

- Need for packing is determined by the presence of dead space or undermining.
- Packing is needed for wounds with any exudate.
- Packing can be stopped when granulation is occurring.

### Needs Packing

- Pack with saline-moistened gauze or Iodoform strips
- Cover with non-adherent dressing

**Change dressing every 12 hours**

### No Packing

- Clean and dry wound
- Apply thin layer of Bacitracin
- Cover with non-adherent dressing

**Change dressing every 12 hours**

## Discharge for Penetrating Traumatic Wounds (not violating the fascia)

