Your Intrathecal Catheter and Pump

Care instructions after surgery

When to Call the Center for Pain Relief
Weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., call 206-598-4282 if you have:

- Temperature higher than 99.5°F (37.5°C)
- Bloody drainage from your incision
- Increased swelling in the incision area
- Any open wound
- Weakness that is getting worse
- Loss of bowel or bladder function
- Severe headache

After hours and on weekends and holidays, please call 206-598-6190 and ask for the Chronic Pain Fellow for outpatients to be paged.

Activity

- Avoid strenuous physical activity for 30 days after your intrathecal catheter and pump are placed.
- You may shower 48 hours after surgery.
- Wear your abdominal binder for 6 to 8 weeks. Avoid activities that cause pain.

Dressing

- If you still have dressings (bandages), remove them 48 hours after your surgery.
- Gently clean your incision 2 times a day with the chlorhexidine you received at your pre-op visit. Do this for 7 days.
- Apply triple antibiotic ointment such as Neosporin to your incision after each cleaning. You can buy this ointment at a pharmacy without a prescription.
Questions?
Call 206-598-4282

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or health care provider if you have questions or concerns. UWMC clinic staff are also available to help.

Center for Pain Relief: 206-598-4282

Medicines
- You have been given the antibiotic _________________________. Take it as directed until all the pills are gone.
- For pain, take:
  - 500 mg acetaminophen (Tylenol), 2 tablets every 8 hours for 5 days
  - 600 mg ibuprofen (Advil) every 8 hours for 5 days
  - 1 or 2 tablets of oxycodone, every 4 hours as needed
- Baclofen:
  - Take ½ of your daily dose the day after surgery.
  - Take ¼ of your daily dose 2 days after surgery.
  - Stop taking baclofen 3 days after surgery.
- Be sure you know and understand your doctor’s instructions about the oral spasticity medicines and pain medicines that you were taking before your surgery.
- You may resume your other usual medicines.

Follow-up Visits
- Return to the Center for Pain Relief in 7 to 10 days for a "post-op" visit on the “implant” schedule. Your appointment is:
  Date: ________________________________  Time: ____________
- Other appointments made for you are:
  Date: ________________________________  Time: ____________
  Date: ________________________________  Time: ____________
  Date: ________________________________  Time: ____________