Instructions for Suture Care at Home:
• Try not to hit the wound on anything.
• Keep the stitches dry for the first 24 hours. After that, you can shower; but be sure to dry the stitches off right away.
• Clean the wound and stitches with antibacterial soap and water 3 to 4 times a day.
• For mouth and lip wounds, rinse your mouth after meals and at bedtime.
• Keep your bandage clean and dry. If the bandage gets wet you will need to change it.
• Lift the area above the level of your heart to decrease pain and swelling.
• Do not soak the wound. Do not go swimming or use a hot tub.
• If you have been given a tetanus shot, your arm may get swollen, red, and warm to the touch. This is a normal reaction.

Instructions for Steri-strip/Dermabond Care at Home:
• Dermabond is a sterile, liquid skin adhesive that holds wound edges together. The film will usually remain in place for 5-10 days, and then naturally falls off your skin.
• If bandaged or Steri-striped, keep the area clean and dry. Cover wound when showering.
• Replace the dressing daily until the adhesive film/Steri-strips have fallen off, or if the area should become wet.
• Do not scratch, rub or pick at the Steri-strips/Dermabond adhesive film.

Instructions for Silvadene Cream/Burn Care at Home:
• Do not remove the dressing for _____________ unless soiled or wet.
• Change dressing at home daily using these steps:
  1) Clean burn thoroughly with mild soap and water daily.
  2) Pat dry with a clean, dry cloth.
  3) Apply Silvadene Cream 1/16 inch thick to the entire burn area. A telfa pad or gauze dressing should be placed over the burn.
• Keep burn dressing clean and dry. Cover wound when showering.
• Silvadene Cream will turn yellow after a few hours; this is a normal reaction.

Instructions for Wound Care at Home:
• Do not remove the dressing for ____________________ unless soiled or wet.
• Keep area clean and dry. Cover wound when showering.
• Change dressing at home using these steps:
  1) Thirty minutes before wound care, take medication for pain if needed.
  2) Gather supplies and wash your hands.
  3) Remove the old dressing and check for signs of infection (See below).
  4) Gently wash the wound with warm water and antibacterial liquid soap.
  5) Pat the wound dry, using direct pressure for 10-15 minutes to control any new bleeding.
  6) Apply antibiotic ointment as directed.
  7) Cover the wound with a sterile dressing and secure with tape on self-adherent wrap.

Supplies for wound care can be purchased at the Forty Acres Pharmacy (1st floor of the SSB) or at a local pharmacy:
- Hibiclens
- Triple antibiotic ointment/cream
- Bacitracin ointment
- Bandaids
- Gauze sponges
- Non-adherent gauze pads
- Self-adherent wrap
- Petroleum dressing
- Tape
- Gauze rolls
- Other

If any of the following occur, call the nurse at _____________________________, Monday – Friday, 8:30am–5:00pm. If you have questions after 5:00pm, call the UHS 24-Hour Nurse Advice Line at 512-475-6877.
- Increased redness, pain, swelling or red streaks
- Fever (temperature > 101˚F)
- Green drainage or foul odor
- If the edges or the wound do not appear to be closing together or wound breaks open