

LACERATION

Level II
(No Level I)

Skill Level: RN

Definition: A cut or tear through the skin. Lacerations may be major or minor and vary considerably in length and depth.

<p>Subjective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of injury: mechanism of injury. 	<p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impaired skin integrity: Laceration as described.
<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of wound, location, length, depth, bleeding, extent and involvement of underlying tissues. • Assess Tetanus Status • No evidence of involvement of deep structures such as nerve, blood vessel, muscle, tendon, bone, joint or organs. • No evidence of distal circulatory or neurological compromise. • Wound not caused by human bite 	<p>Plan:</p> <p>Patient education and self-care items for this protocol include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tylenol 1-2 tabs every 4 hours prn. OR Ibuprofen 200mg 1-2 tabs QID prn. <p>At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor/Simple laceration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cleanse wound with saline or tap water. ➤ If minor laceration (only through epidermis), close with Steri-strips and cover with appropriate sterile bandage. ➤ If wound does not close with Steri-strips, "Topical Skin Adhesive" may be used. Nurse must have completed training to use this intervention. ➤ If unable to use "Topical Skin Adhesive", discuss with practitioner. Often suturing can wait several hours; Practitioner may elect to suture on-site later. Cleanse area and cover with saline-soaked, sterile dressing. ➤ Tetanus Prophylaxis if indicated. Refer to protocol.

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	<p>Plan (Cont.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major/Complicated laceration: Evidence of vessel, nerve, muscle, tendon, ligament, joint, bone damage. Severe tissue loss, lacerations through the vermilion border of the lip or through and through lacerations of the lip all require more aggressive treatment.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Control bleeding with pressure, elevate involved extremity.➤ If possible, irrigate with copious amounts of saline.➤ Do not remove any foreign body.➤ Cover with saline-soaked sterile dressing.➤ Immediate referral to on-site practitioner or off-site emergency facility for further care.
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Nursing Education:

1. Steri Strips may be used in conjunction with Topical Skin Adhesive to approx... Nursing Competency skills form
2. Schedule dressing changes and/or wound assessments as needed.
3. If patient returns with signs and symptoms of infection, treat with bacterial infection nursing protocol and refer to practitioner.
4. If wound reopens, refer to practitioner.
5. Human bites are generally not closed, treat bite and refer questions to provider.

Patient Education:

1. Keep wound clean and dry. Use of antibiotic ointment is not necessarily helpful.
2. Instruct patient to return if signs of infection (explain) or if wound reopens.

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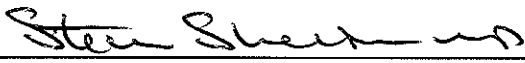
APPROVED:

Medical Services Manager


Date

Chief Medical Officer

Date



Medical Director



Date

Date Effective: _____
Revised September 2009