

## After Your Neurovascular Angiogram

### Self-care

*This handout gives important self-care instructions to follow after your neurovascular angiogram.*

#### For 24 Hours

- The medicine that you were given to make you sleepy will stay in your body for several hours. It could affect your judgment. Because of this, until the day after your procedure, or for 24 hours:
  - Do **not** drive a car.
  - Do **not** use machinery or power tools.
  - Do **not** drink alcohol.
  - Do **not** take medicines such as tranquilizers or sleeping pills, unless your doctor prescribed them.
- We strongly advise you to do only light activities and get plenty of rest.
- Someone should stay with you overnight.
- Eat as usual, if you can. If you cannot eat at first, slowly add foods that you can handle.
- Drink lots of fluids.
- Keep the puncture site clean and dry. Do **not** shower unless your doctor or nurse tells you it is OK.
- Follow your doctor's instructions about your medicines.



#### For 48 Hours

- Do only moderate activities for 48 hours after your procedure to allow your puncture site to heal.

#### For 7 Days

- Do **not** take a bath, sit in a hot tub, or go swimming, unless your doctor or nurse tells you it is OK.
- Do **not** do any strenuous activities.
- Do **not** lift anything that weighs more than 10 pounds. (A gallon of milk weighs more than 8 pounds.)

## Wound Care

- When you shower:
  - Use a clean, dry towel to pat the site dry.
  - Do not apply any lotions, creams, ointments, or powders to the site.
  - You may want to cover the puncture site with a Band-Aid until it is healed. If you use a Band-Aid, change it daily and check the site over the next few days.
- It is normal to have some discomfort or bruising at the puncture site for several days.

## When to Call

Check the puncture site every day. Call your clinic if you have:

- Changes at the puncture site:
  - Bleeding or swelling at puncture site
  - Redness, warmth, or discharge that smells bad
- Leg pain on the side of your body where the procedure was done
- Fever higher than 100.5°F (38°C) or chills

## Who to Call

If you have any of the symptoms listed above, call your clinic:

- **Harborview Medical Center patients:** Call the HMC Neurosurgery Clinic at 206.744.9300.
- **UW Medical Center patients:** Call the UWMC Alvord Brain Tumor Center at 206.744.8087

### Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.

Neurosurgery Clinic at Harborview Medical Center  
Ninth and Jefferson Building,  
5th floor  
908 Jefferson St.  
Seattle, WA 98104

HMC Neurosurgery Nurse  
Triage Line:  
Call 206.744.9340 and press  
8 to talk with a nurse.

## Follow-up Visit

Return to the Neurosurgery Clinic to see Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ a.m./p.m.

## Other Instructions

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