



Infection

Information for Plastic Surgery patients

This handout for Plastic Surgery patients at Harborview Medical Center explains the signs of infection to watch for.

What to Do

Check your wounds every day for infection. If you have any of the symptoms listed below, call and tell us. We may want you to come to the clinic so that we can assess your wounds.

Signs of infection include:

- The skin around your wounds is more red.
- You have more swelling.
- The skin around your wounds feels warmer.
- There is bad-smelling drainage.
- You have more drainage.
- The drainage is cloudy and a green-yellow color.
- Your healed wounds start to drain or re-open.
- Skin grafts look like they are “melting” or “dissolving.”
- You have more pain.
- You have a fever higher than 100.4°F (38°C).



Call one of the numbers listed below if you have any signs of infection.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Call one of the numbers below if you have questions or concerns.

Weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., call the Burn/Plastic Surgery Clinic: 206.744.5735

After hours and on weekends and holidays, call the 24-hour nurse at the Community Care Line: 206.744.2500

Who to Call

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, call the Burn/Plastic Surgery Clinic at 206.744.5735. The clinic answers calls weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Urgent Needs

If you have an urgent care need after hours or on a weekend or holiday, call the Community Care Line nurse at 206.744.2500.