WOUND CARE INSTRUCTIONS

Your wound will be left open and will heal by “**secondary intention**” (i.e.: **no sutures**). Healing will be slow in the beginning, but after an initial lag time of one to two weeks, it should heal rapidly. To facilitate healing, leave bandage on for 24 to 48 hours, then remove and clean gently with warm soap and water. Pat dry, apply an over-the-counter antibiotic ointment, then cover with a band-aid or other appropriate dressing. *Polysporin* is preferable to products containing neomycin (such as *Neosporin, Triple Antibiotic, Mycitracin),* which is a very allergenic substance. Do this twice daily until your wound has healed.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**

1. **BLEEDING** - Minor oozing is expected. Firm pressure for five to ten minutes should take care of

this. If it does not stop with 20 minutes of continuous pressure, call our office.

1. **BRUISING -** This is a common side effect of local anesthesia, and will resolve in 1 to 2 weeks.
2. **INFECTION -** It is not uncommon for normal wounds to heal with some redness. However, if redness extends beyond approximately 1/8 inch, or there is persistent pain, swelling or drainage, this may indicate infection. Call our office if there is any suspicion of infection.
3. **PAIN -** Some discomfort should be expected, especially within the first one to two days. This can usually be controlled with *Extra-Strength Tylenol.*  If the pain worsens or persists past the first 24 to 48 please contact us.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at 256-235-3660.