Home Care Instructions
Following Your Child’s Craniotomy

The following instructions are to help you take care of your child at home. You should follow them until you return to see your doctor, who may change some of them, according to your own needs. Please read through this information and ask your nurse or doctor any questions you may have.

Activities
• Try to limit your child’s activity until you return to the clinic.
• No rough play with siblings, friends or pets
• Quiet games, reading, crafts, and watching videos is encouraged.
• No bike riding, tricycle, or hot wheels for younger children.

Wound Care
Keep your child’s incision clean and dry until the stitches or staples are removed, which will be about 10 to 14 days after surgery. After that she/he may bathe or shower, but do not scrub the stitch line. Wash gently and pay dry. If she/he showers, avoid having water spray directly on the incision line for six weeks.

School
Your child may return to school when she/he feels up to it. If they wish they may return to school when the staples are out. But keep in mind they should not let other children touch incision line. Your neurosurgeon will give you a school excuse as needed and/or sign home-bound teaching forms when necessary. Please advise your nurse case manager what is needed before your child is discharged or contact your physician’s office for information.

Medication
Before you leave the hospital you will be given prescriptions for medicines to take at home. Your nurse will go over them with you. Do not stop taking any of the medicines without your doctor’s permission. If you have questions about your medicine check with your nurse before discharge, ask your pharmacist, or contact your physician’s office.
Nutrition
A well balanced diet is necessary for proper healing. This includes foods from each basic food
group: dairy products, meats, vegetables, fruits and grains. If you have questions about a spe-
cific diet, ask your nurse about seeing a nutritionist.

Call your doctor or nurse if you notice:
• a change in the wound such as increased redness, swelling or drainage
  of any kind
• a change in your child’s normal lifestyle (i.e. increased irritability or
  increased sleepiness)
• your child has fever or chills
• temperature greater than 101.4°F
• something is out of the ordinary. Do not wait until your appointment
time to report a problem.

Important phone numbers
To reach your doctor, call the neurosurgery office day or night at 322-7417.

CASE MANAGER
Name: ______________________________________
Phone number: _______________________________

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