

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

How to Care for Your Baby's Circumcision

In **circumcision**, a doctor cuts off the circular flap of skin (**foreskin**) that covers the head of the penis. If this is done in the first month of life, it is a simple operation that may be done in a doctor's office with medicine to numb the penis (**local anesthesia**). If the boy is older, it will require your child having surgery with **general anesthesia**.

How you care for your son's penis depends on which clamp was used on the circumcision.

Plastic bell

If there is a plastic bell covering the tip of the penis, keep it clean and dry. If it gets covered by stool, gently squeeze water from a wet washcloth on the penis, or gently wipe it clean. The plastic bell should fall off in 3 to 4 days. Do not use petroleum jelly (like Vaseline) on the penis or bell.

No plastic bell

In the first few days, the penis may ooze. As it heals, a soft yellow crust forms. This is normal. Put petroleum jelly (like Vaseline) on the tip of the penis every time you change diapers. This will keep the crust soft and the diaper from sticking to the penis. By the 6th day or so, the skin will be healed, the crust will be gone, and the penis should be pink and normal.

- yes no Give your son a sponge bath until the circumcision heals. Wash your baby with a soft cloth and warm, soapy water. Wash the penis and scrotum gently. Washing your son's penis and scrotum will not hurt him, and will help prevent infection.



Call the nurse or doctor if:

- your son's penis swells a lot
- your son's penis bleeds
- your son's penis has pus or discharge
- gets red down to the base of the penis, or
- your son does not wet his diaper.

Now that you've read this:

- Tell your nurse or doctor how you will care for your son's penis. (Check when done.)
- Tell your nurse or doctor what you might see that would make you want to call your nurse or doctor. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,

- call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-933-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.org
www.theemilycenter.org
Facebook: facebook.com/theemilycenter
Twitter: [@emilycenter](https://twitter.com/emilycenter)
Pinterest: pinterest.com/emilycenter

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

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#194 • Written by The Pediatric Outpatient Staff • Illustrated by Irene Takamizu

How to Care for Your Baby's Circumcision

Name of Health Care Provider: _____

Date returned: _____ db

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes

No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

The Emily Center
Health Education Specialist
Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016-7710

602-933-1395

Thank you for helping us!