When should I call my child’s doctor?

Call your child’s doctor or nurse practitioner if your child has any of the following after hypospadias repair surgery:

- A fever of 102°F (38.8°C) or higher (rectally) for more than 24 hours
- Bleeding from the stitches
- Nausea and vomiting (throwing up) after the first day of surgery
- No bowel movement (pooping) in the last 48 hours
- Red stains in the diaper or blood in the pee (it is OK if the pee is pink-colored for a few days)
- Severe pain that does not get better with pain medicine
- Straining/unable to pee
- The tip of the penis looks gray or blue (bandage seems too tight)
- You cannot see the stent tube or if it falls out (do not replace it)

What is hypospadias?

- Hypospadias is when the tube that carries urine (pee) is in the wrong place.
- It is a fairly common birth defect and affects about 1 in 200 boys.

What causes hypospadias?

- Hypospadias happens when the opening of the urethra (the opening through which urine and semen pass) is located under the penis rather than at the tip of the penis.
- Some boys with hypospadias are also born with a curved penis (called chordee).

How is hypospadias corrected?

- Hypospadias is corrected with surgery. It can usually be corrected with one operation. More severe forms may need more than one surgery.
- Most boys have surgery before they are age 2.

What happens on the day of surgery?

- Your child will have general anesthesia to help him fall asleep during the procedure. The urologist and anesthesiologist will see you before the surgery.
- Most children go home on the same day of the operation. Some children need to spend a night in the hospital to be watched.
- After surgery, your child will stay in the Day Surgery Unit until he is ready to go home. Parents are welcome to stay with their child at this time.

Can my child be active at home?

Your nurse will tell you the safest way to bring your child home from the hospital in your car. Once your child is at home, he does not have to stay in bed but he needs to be watched closely.

- He may walk and play quietly.
- He may enjoy being read to or playing with toys.
- Your child may not use a walker, straddle toys or bicycle until his doctor tells you it is OK at a follow-up visit.
- Your doctor or nurse will tell you when your child can return to daycare or school.

What should my child eat and drink?

- **First day after surgery:** Give your child fruit juice, soups and crackers to help keep his stomach from getting upset. Make sure he drinks at least as much fluid as he did before the surgery.
- **After the first day of surgery:** Your child can return to his regular diet if he is feeling up to it. Give him foods high in fiber, such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains, to prevent constipation (having a hard time pooping).
Will my child be in pain?
- Your child will probably have some soreness after surgery, and be tired and cranky. It takes time to heal.
- The doctor will prescribe medicine to help with the pain. Give the pain medicine as prescribed and instructed by your doctor or nurse.
  - Always talk with your child’s doctor about allergies your child may have before giving over-the-counter medication.
- Engage your child in quiet activities, like books, music or stroller walks, to help keep his mind off the soreness.

Will my child need other medications?
Your child’s doctor may recommend medications in addition to pain medicine.
- Bacitracin is an antibiotic ointment used to help prevent infection and promote healing. Your nurse will show you how to put it on. You can buy it in any drug store without a prescription.
- Antibiotics (liquids or pills) may be prescribed to help prevent your child from getting an infection after surgery.
- Muscle relaxers may be prescribed to help with any bladder spasms.
- Give all medicines as prescribed and instructed by your doctor or nurse.

How should I care for the wound area?
- Leave the bandage in place: Your child will go home with a clean bandage or dressing around his penis that you do not need to change. If it falls off, put Bacitracin on the entire penis until it is completely healed.
- Keep it clean: If your son’s penis or bandage gets dirty with poop, rinse them gently with a mixture of ½ hydrogen peroxide and ½ water. You can buy hydrogen peroxide in a drug store without a prescription.
  Change your child’s diaper often. After your son has bowel movements (poops), wash his bottom with warm water and gently pat it dry. Do not use diaper wipes that have alcohol because they can sting.
- Use Bacitracin: Your child’s penis will look red and swollen for a while. Put Bacitracin on the tip of his penis 4–6 times a day to help prevent infections and crusting. Follow the directions on the package.
- Leave dried blood alone: Do not try to wipe away any dried blood after the bandage is off.
- Use double diapers: Protect your child’s penis for 1 week using 2 diapers as padding. Your nurse will show you how to do this.
- Use loose clothes: Dress your child in clothes that are not tight, like sweat pants or pajamas.

Can my child take baths?
- Give sponge baths for the first 7 days (do not give your child a bath in the bathtub).
- As long as your son does not have a tube or stent, he may take a tub bath after 7 days. It is OK if the bandage falls off in the tub.
- Use only warm water for the first bath (no soap).

What should I do if my child has a stent or tube?
A stent or tube is sometimes stitched into the penis to keep the penis open while it is healing. Your child will pee through and/or around the stent.
- Care for the wound area the same way as it is described in this Family Education Sheet. When you put Bacitracin on the penis, be careful not to block the stent.
- The stent will stay in place 7–21 days after surgery. It will be taken out in the doctor’s office.
- Do not give your child a bath in the bathtub while the stent is in. Give him a sponge bath instead.
- If the stent falls out, do not try to put it back in. Call your doctor right away. Save the stent and bring it with you when you see your child’s doctor.

This Family Education Sheet is available in Arabic and Spanish.