

Dilation and Curettage (D&C): Aftercare Instructions

This brochure will help you know what to expect as you recover from the D&C procedure. Please be sure you understand these instructions before you leave the hospital.

Your follow-up visit will be in 2 weeks on _____ at _____.

The next 24 hours

You were given sedation medication when you had your procedure. This medication may affect you for up to 24 hours. A friend or family member at least 18 years of age must go home with you. For your safety, follow these instructions **for the next 24 hours**:

- Rest today.
- Do not drive or operate machinery.
- Do not make any important decisions.
- Do not drink alcoholic beverages or use marijuana.
- Do not take other muscle relaxants or sedative, hypnotic or mood-altering medications unless directed by your physician.

Care at home

Follow these instructions when you are at home:

- Do not do heavy activity for 24 hours. Slowly increase your activity as you are able.
- Expect to have vaginal bleeding for 7 to 10 days. You may have a little spotting up to the time of your next menses (period). This bleeding/spotting may come and go.
- You can expect your first period after your procedure in 4 to 6 weeks. Some patients may not have their first period until 8 weeks — this is normal.
- Do not have intercourse, douche, use tampons or put anything in your vagina for 2 weeks.
- You may shower as usual.

Medications

- Take ibuprofen (Motrin®, Advil®) or acetaminophen (Tylenol®) as directed for pain.
 - Start with 600 milligrams (mg) ibuprofen every 6 hours **or** 500 mg Tylenol every 6 hours.
 - If your pain is not relieved, you may increase the ibuprofen to 800 mg every 8 hours **or** the Tylenol to 1,000 mg every 8 hours.
- Use contraception (birth control).
- Follow your usual medication schedule starting today (the day of your procedure).

When to call your physician

Contact your physician if you have any of these symptoms:

- Vaginal bleeding that is heavier than your normal period (using more than 1 pad per hour)
- Increasing abdominal discomfort (not relieved with your prescribed pain medication)
- A temperature of 100.4 degrees F or higher
- Foul-smelling vaginal discharge
- Nausea and vomiting that does not go away
- Pain that is not relieved with ibuprofen or Tylenol

Contact information

If you have any of the above symptoms, please call our office at 312.695.7382 (TTY: 711).

You will speak with the answering service. It will connect you with a nurse or page the on-call physician. If needed, they will have you come to Northwestern Medicine Prentice Women's Hospital Obstetrical Triage Unit (on the 1st floor of the hospital).

- For all other questions, call our office at 312.695.7382.
- Send messages that are not urgent, such as paperwork requests, through the MyNM patient account portal.
 - We may take 2 business days to respond to MyNM messages.
 - MyNM should be used for non-urgent messages only.
- **For all emergencies, call 911.**