

Tracheostomy closure, Discharge Information

Patient Information

Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) Service

Your tracheostomy tube has been removed from your neck. It is important to know the following information:

It may take 6 weeks or longer for your stoma (hole) in the neck to close and heal over.

This will depend on how long your tracheostomy tube was in situ and how quickly you heal.

For the stoma to heal over, an occlusive (“no air can enter”) dressing with an air tight, waterproof seal must be applied.

If the dressing comes off, a new dressing needs to be re-applied. The stoma will need these dressings until the area has healed.

When you are talking, coughing or sneezing the dressing site must be “splinted” (held on) with the fingers to help stop the dressing lifting off.

If there are any signs of redness, swelling, pain bleeding/discharge around your stoma you will need to be seen by your family doctor (GP).

Sometimes the stoma’ is closed with stitches (sutures). If your stoma has stitches you will need to visit your GP for the stitches to be removed within 7 to 10 days.

Follow-up:

Any follow up will be through your own family doctor (GP).

If you have any concerns regarding your wound please contact your own GP, in the first instance.

Additional comments

Contact us

Wellington Hospital Main Outpatient
Department, ENT Services

Phone: (04) 385 59999 ext. 80400

Hours: Monday to Friday 8am – 4:30pm (excluding public holidays)