**INCISION AND DRAINAGE OF ABSCESS POST-OPERATIVE INSTRUCTIONS**

**Care of Wound**

Leave the dressing in place until the next morning or as instructed by physician at time of procedure. Once the dressing is removed, it is okay to shower. Do no scrub or rub the incision site. Allow the water to flow over the wound. Pat the area dry with a towel. If packing was inserted, remove packing (wick) next day while in the shower. It may be helpful to be seated while removing packing as patients may become lightheaded. Pack the wound with saline-dampened gauze, if indicated. Cover the area with dry gauze and tape. Perform this twice a day until your next visit with the physician unless otherwise instructed.

**Comfort Measures**

You may experience some discomfort at the surgical site. You may take Tylenol or Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil) as needed to relieve any pain you have. It is helpful to take pain medication as soon as possible following your procedure to minimize the pain once the local anesthetic wears off (2-4 hours). To help reduce pain and swelling, apply an ice pack – 20 minutes on/20 minutes off.

**Follow-up Office Visit**

A follow-up appointment will be schedule for you at the time of your surgical visit.

**Activity / Return to Work**

You should plan to return to work the day of your surgery unless otherwise instructed. Limit your activities to what is comfortable for you. You may exercise as tolerated. No swimming in public pools until the wound is completely closed.

**When to Call the Office**

Do not hesitate to call the office if you develop a fever (temperature greater than 101), shaking chills, or bleeding from your incision, redness around the incision, persistent or increased pain or with any other problem that concerns you. The office is open 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, Monday through Friday. After hours and weekends the answering service will direct your call to the on-call physician.