

Jackson County Medical Control Authority
Community Paramedicine Protocols
SUTURE REMOVAL

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Suture Removal

Indications: This protocol provides general guidance for the evaluation of patients with the need of suture removal under the Community Paramedicine Program. The CPU will respond to a residence on request from the primary care provider, on request by the patient through 911 triage or on referral from ALS 911 response. The CP will follow guidelines outlined by the primary care providers or on-line medical direction orders.

Purpose: To assess the patient with wounds that have been closed with suture or staples and differentiate between the patient who can be treated at home vs. those who will require ED evaluation.

CPU Directives:

1. Follow **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments**.
2. Obtain and review patient health history and primary care provider's orders prior to evaluation when available.
3. Assess the patient's wound and determine the following:
 - a. Mechanism of injury
 - b. Date of injury and wound repair
 - c. Type of wound closure: staples, suture absorbable vs synthetic (e.g. nylon)
 - d. Care of wound since closure
 - e. Recommended time for closure devices to be removed
 - f. Appearance of wound: clean and dry, drainage seen, color of surrounding skin, swelling or pain experienced by the patient.
4. Determine whether the patient has additional symptoms which may be related to wound complications such as: fever, local redness or swelling, red streaks proximal to the wound. Symptomatic patients should be considered for transport to the ED for evaluation.
5. Asymptomatic patients are appropriate for home treatment, suture/staple removal and appropriate follow up.
6. Contact the PCP or on-line medical direction per the **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments**. Provide patient report and discuss treatment and continuity plan.
7. Continue treatment and follow the **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments** until a disposition is determined and continuity plan completed.