

Incision & Drainage – Post-Op Instructions

Medications

- Take antibiotics **exactly as prescribed** and finish the full course.
- For discomfort, you may use over-the-counter pain relievers.
- Avoid alcohol while taking antibiotics.

Wound Care

- Do **not** disturb the surgical site or any packing placed.
- If drainage continues, gently blot with clean gauze.
- Begin warm salt-water rinses **after 24 hours**:
 - 1 teaspoon salt in 8 oz warm water
 - Rinse gently 3–4 times daily, especially after meals
- Avoid commercial mouthwashes unless instructed.

Diet

- Stick to **soft, cool foods** for the first 24–48 hours.
- Avoid spicy, acidic, or crunchy foods.
- Stay well-hydrated.

When to Call the Office

Contact your dentist immediately if you notice:

- Increasing swelling or pain after 48 hours
- Fever above 101°F
- Persistent bleeding or foul odor
- Difficulty swallowing or breathing
- Signs of allergic reaction (rash, itching, swelling)

Oral Hygiene

- Brush and floss **away from** the surgical site.
- Resume full oral hygiene once healing is confirmed at follow-up.

Follow-Up

- Return in **7–10 days** for evaluation and possible packing removal.
- Healing typically occurs within **7–10 days**.