

# Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<b><u>Title:</u></b> Staple/ Suture Removal	Original Approval: 6/87
<b><u>Number:</u></b> CP-29	Reviewed/ revised: 9/99, 9/12, 5/24
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**Statement/ Purpose:**

To provide guidelines for staple/ suture removal.

**Authority:**

n/a

**Application:**

SCDPH CHHA RNs

**Terminology:**

**Responsible Party:**

Training and Quality Improvement Coordinator

**Cross-Reference:**

Hand Hygiene

**Procedure:**

1. Confirm provider's order for the staple/ suture removal.
2. Instruct patient and/or caregiver regarding purpose for staple/ suture removal
  - a. To remove staples/ sutures
  - b. To encourage complete tissue healing
  - c. To promote skin comfort
3. Perform hand hygiene
4. Gather all necessary supplies
5. Explain the procedure to the patient.
6. Position the patient in a position of comfort that allows for the ease of staple/ suture removal.
7. Don disposable gloves.
8. Remove old dressing and discard.
9. Clean incision with prescribed cleaning solution.
10. Gently pat dry.
11. Removal
  - a. Staples:
    - i. Place staple remover over middle of the staple
    - ii. Squeeze the staple remover to remove the staple
  - b. Sutures:
    - i. Gently "pick up" string sutures from skin surface with forceps.

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- ii. Cut suture with sterile scissors
  - iii. Pull out suture with forceps.
- 12. Assess incision line for degree of healing and any open areas.
  - a. If infection suspected, notify patient's provider immediately.
- 13. Apply dry dressing
- 14. Discard all used supplies.
- 15. Position patient for comfort.
- 16. Remove and discard gloves.
- 17. Perform hand hygiene
- 18. Document procedure, including the following, in the patient's clinical record:
  - a. Condition of incision line
  - b. Drainage, if any
  - c. Odor, if any
  - d. Patient's tolerance of procedure
  - e. Instructions provided
  - f. Any communication with the provider