

## **Skin Glue Patient Advice Leaflet**

Skin glue / Tissue adhesive are medical grade cyanoacrylates. They are used to join the edges of wounds together, and stay in place while the wound begins to heal.

### **Can I get my wound wet?**

- You should keep your wound dry for at least 1 hour
- Following that period it is ok to wash your wound
- For head wounds, you may wash your hair when you get home, pat/dab dry immediately
- **Do not** soak the wound area
- **Do not** go swimming

### **Looking after your wound**

- Gently pat your wound to dry it – do not rub it
- **Do not** stick a plaster on top of the skin glue
- **Do not** put creams or lotions on your wound
- **Do not** try to remove the skin glue - it will remove naturally as the wound heals in about 5-10 days
- **Do not** scratch, pick or play with your wound, the scab will come off once your wound has healed

### **Seek Medical Advice if**

- The wound splits open or begins to bleed
- You think your wound may be infected
- The wound becomes visibly redder or swollen
- The pain or soreness in your wound gets worse
- There is a discharge or pus weeps from your wound
- You have a temperature

### **Skin glue can be used for children and adults and can be used instead of**

- Skin staples, stitches (sutures) or adhesive tape

### **When can skin glue be used?**

- Minor cuts, up to 5cm long, with straight edges, which can be pulled together

### **How long does skin glue take to set?**

- The first layer of skin glue takes several minutes to set. It forms a protective covering over your wound

### **Will the glue affect how my wound heals?**

- Most wounds closed with skin glue heal normally. The scar from your wound will probably take about six months to fade
- Some research studies have found that wounds closed with skin glue can leave finer, neater scars than other methods

### **Will I need a dressing on my wound as well?**

- No, The glue provides an anti-microbial barrier, to ensure infection cannot get into the wound

**Should you have any concerns, please contact your GP or practice nurse,  
alternatively call NHS Direct on 0845 4647**