COPPULL MEDICAL PRACTICE

**MINOR SURGERY PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET**

**(Removal of minor skin lesions, lumps and bumps)**

Minor surgery is a relatively painless and fairly quick procedure generally taking 15-20 minutes.

Most procedures are carried out using a local anaesthetic (an injection at the sight of the lesion which numbs the area, similar to that used by dentists). The local anaesthetic lasts for about 2 hours. You should not feel any pain during the procedure but you may feel a sensation of pressure. If you do feel any pain during the procedure you should tell the Doctor immediately.

Minor surgery is a safe and effective treatment, however there are some risks associated with minor surgery:

* Bleeding
* Bruising
* Swelling
* Infection
* Scar tissue formation

All minor surgery can leave some degree of scarring. This varies from person to person and cannot be predicted. If you have concerns about scarring it is important that you discuss this with the Doctor before your procedure.

Some lesions are surgically removed from the skin and will require skin closure with sutures. Other lesions may be removed from the skin by cautery (burning the area), this will not require any sutures. The Doctor will advise you which method of removal is required. All lesions surgically removed from the skin will be sent to the laboratory for analysis.

Once your minor surgery has been completed the Nurse will apply a dressing to your wound and you will be allowed to go home.

You may notice once the local anaesthetic has worn off that your wound is a little painful, you can take simple pain killers such as Paracetamol. The wound may remain painful for 24-48 hours, if the pain is not improving after 48 hours please contact the surgery for advice. Likewise, if the wound becomes red, swollen or starts discharging pus, please contact the practice for advice.

The wound dressing should be left in place for at least 24 hours, or longer as specified by the Doctor or Nurse. It is important that the wound is kept clean and dry and that you don’t use any creams or lotions on the wound.

If you have required stiches to your wound you will need to make an appointment in 1 weeks time with the Treatment Room Nurse to have them removed.

**Please note if patients under the age of 16 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian**