**Circumcision: After Visit Care Information for Parents/Caregivers**

● **What is a circumcision?**

At birth, boys have skin that covers the end or tip of the penis, called the foreskin. A circumcision surgically removes the foreskin, exposing the tip of the penis. A circumcision is usually performed in the first few weeks of life. An infant must be stable, healthy and receive the vitamin K shot at birth to safely perform the circumcision.

● **Benefits of a circumcision.**

The American Academy of Pediatrics 2012 policy now states that the preventive health benefits of elective circumcision outweigh any risks of the procedure.

● **Is a circumcision painful?**

When done without pain medicine, circumcision is painful. There are pain medicines available that are safe and effective. The AAP recommends that medicines be used to reduce pain from circumcision. Local anesthetics can be injected into the penis to lower pain and stress in infants. Our clinic will give your infant acetaminophen at the time of procedure to alleviate pain. We will recommend use of it outside the clinic as needed for further pain relief.

● **How do I take care of my child after a circumcision?**

Replace the gauze and petroleum jelly with each diaper change for your infant for at least 24 hours after the procedure. Gently clean the area as necessary for stool or other debris in the area, but clean jelly can be left on there without removal. No bath for the first 24 hours. You can provide a sponge bath in the first 24 hours if needed. It is recommended to continue the petroleum jelly and gauze for the next 3-7 days. You will be given enough gauze and jelly for several changes. If more is needed, the gauze and petroleum jelly should be easily found at most pharmacies. It will take 7-10 days for the penis to fully heal after the circumcision.

● **Are there any problems that can happen after a circumcision?**

Problems after circumcision are exceedingly rare. However, call your provider right away if:

* Your baby does not urinate normally within 12 hours after the circumcision
* There is persistent bleeding
* There is redness or significant swelling around the tip of the penis that gets worse after the first 24 hours
* Your baby develops a fever or significant fussiness
* The head of the penis turns blue or black

**Tylenol dose: every 4 hours as needed.**