

L&D Community Care Inc.
REPORTING INJURIES-CUTS/SCRATCHES/BRUISING
READING MATERIAL

COLOR STAGES OF BRUISING:

A bruise goes through a sequence of color changes from the time it is formed to the time it finally heals. Understanding and observing the color of a bruise can help identify how old a bruise is and how close it is to full healing.

RED - At the onset, bruises should look red or pink in color due to the presence of iron-rich hemoglobin in the pooled blood. The area around the bruise may also get tender and swollen.

BLUISH/PURPLE - Within one to two days from the time of injury or trauma, the bruise should turn bluish/purple. This will continue through to the fifth day. It is attributed to low oxygen supply at the site of bruising because of swelling, which then causes the normally red hemoglobin to change its color accordingly.

GREENISH/BROWN - After day 5, the bruise then turns greenish or brown as hemoglobin undergoes biochemical breakdown. The green coloration is usually an indication of high levels of biliverdin (a green bile pigment) in the pooled blood and will continue to day 7.

YELLOWISH/BROWN - After day 7, the bruise then turns pale yellow (usually as a result of presence of large amounts of bilirubin) or brown. This is the final stage of bruise healing and the bruise will not undergo any further color changes until it disappears.

It should be mentioned, at this point, that the sequence of color changes do not suddenly happen. They slowly change with varying shades of each color along the transition lines. For example, purple usually fades to violet as it comes close to changing to green and yellow begins with a dark shade which then turns to pale yellow and so on.

Most bruises will have cleared completely in 2 weeks, but some may stay as long as 4 weeks during the stages of bruising. Extent of the injury aside, some areas of the body such as legs, thighs and arms also tend to stay bruised for longer periods of time than others.

L&D Community Care Inc.
REPORTING INJURIES-CUTS/SCRATCHES/BRUISING
READING MATERIAL

REPORTING CUTS AND SCRATCHES:

When a scratch occurs, the skin slightly tears. Often, the blood will come to the surface of the scratch or injury without bleeding through the skin. Scratches in most cases are insignificant and heal rather quickly.

When a cut occurs, the skin and flesh will be clearly open by a sharp object of some kind which can cause mild to severe bleeding depending on the severity of the cut. Applying pressure to the site of the injury can slow the blood flow. Deep cuts with severe bleeding can become life threatening without proper attention. It is very important to report all injuries accurately to the best of your ability.

In order to report a cut or a scratch, you will call L&D Community Care (337-237-0104) to report the injury 7 days a week, 24 hour a day. L&D will connect you with a Nurse or a Client Service Coordinator (CSC).

When reporting a scratch or cut, you will be asked the size of the injury. You will not use inches as a measure of the injury but rather use your index finger to measure the injury and is much more accurate and giving a guesstimate. Using your index finger, place your finger along the length or cut or scratch. You will measure from the tip of your index finger and count 1 joint, 2 joints and 3 joints. If the injury is longer than three joints, place your index finger where you left off at 3 joints and count 4 joints, 5 joints etc.

REPORTING BRUISES, BURNS, AND SCRAPES:

When reporting an injury that involves an area such as a bruise, burn or scrape you will be asked the size of the injury, meaning the width or circumference of the injured area. To accurately measure the size of this injury, you will use your index fingertip, the width of a thumb, or multiple fingers laid across the injured area to determine the size of the injury. In the event the injury is wider than 4 fingers, add additional fingers if needed to be as accurate as possible.

All injuries no matter the size or severity must be reported! A tiny scratch, cut, bruises or even bug bites must all be reported. Sometimes little injuries can become quite serious. The client may not have knowledge of being allergic to some insects etc.

Should an injury occur with your client when you are off shift, it is very important for you to call L&D immediately upon noticing an injury that obviously happened on another shift. If the worker before you, the client or the client's parents tell you the injury has already been reported.....

IT IS YOUR JOB TO CALL L&D IMMEDIATELY. LET THE RECEPTIONIST OR ANSWERING SERVICE KNOW YOU JUST RETURNED FROM TIME OFF AND HAVE NOTICE AN INJURY YOU ARE NOT FAMILIAR WITH.

L&D Community Care Inc.
REPORTING INJURIES-CUTS/SCRATCHES/BRUISING
READING MATERIAL



www.shutterstock.com 18729880

Scratch



Scratch



Cut



Cut



L&D Community Care Inc.
REPORTING INJURIES-CUTS/SCRATCHES/BRUISING
READING MATERIAL

Measuring length of cut/scratch

Tip of finger to first joint: _____

Tip of finger to second joint: _____

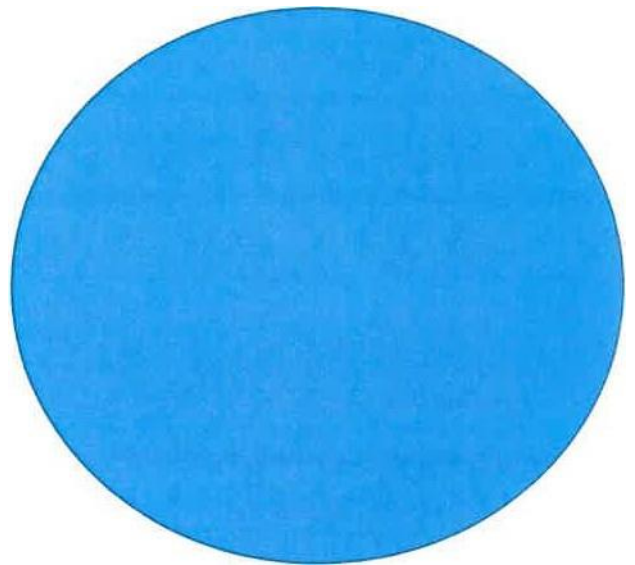
Tip of finger to third joint: _____

Measuring length of bruise

One finger wide



Four fingers wide



One thumb wide



Three fingers wide

