

## AFTER SURGERY INSTRUCTIONS

### EAR TUBES

#### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Pain does not occur after ear tube.
- Drainage from one or both ears is common and may be discolored or bloody.

#### SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Earplugs or any other special precautions are **not necessary** and not effective for routine bathing or surface swimming. Deep water diving should be avoided.
- Repeat ear infections can still occur at any time with ear tubes in place. Drainage will occur but usually no pain or fever.
- Tubes usually move out of the eardrum into the ear canal within a year and then fall out of the ear canal. As tubes move out of the eardrum there may be drainage from the ear – cloudy or even bloody. This is not a sign of an ear infection. Use prescribed eardrops 2x/day for active ear drainage and call for a routine office appointment.

#### MEDICATION

- Antibiotic ear drops **may or may not** be prescribed by you physician.
- Oral antibiotics are not used due to side effects and lack of benefit. Ear infections with tubes in place are treated with antibiotic ear drops, **not** oral antibiotics.

#### ACTIVITY

- No restrictions.

#### DIET

- No restrictions.

#### POST OP APPOINTMENT

- Usually 4 weeks after surgery then every 6 months until tubes no longer present.

#### WHEN TO CALL

- Call office during routine hours for questions, concerns, changes or refills of any medication.
- After hours calls should be limited to urgent problems such as excessive bleeding, pain, or excessive drowsiness.