



# Care After the Removal of the Spleen (Splenectomy) or if Your Spleen Doesn't Work Properly (Functional Hyposplenism).

## Patient Advice Card.

Always carry this card with you.



<b>Current Medication</b> (see Antibiotic Guidelines for current recommendations)	<b>IMPORTANT HEALTH INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Continuous antibiotic prophylaxis – taken each day</b> (ask your doctor to write what you have been prescribed) Yes/NA	Name: _____	<b>I have no functioning spleen</b>  I am susceptible to overwhelming infection which can progress very rapidly. Please show this card to the doctor or nurse if I am ill or severely injured.  <b>Note to health care providers:</b> Patients who do not have a functioning spleen have a <b>significantly increased risk of rapidly progressive overwhelming infection</b> , despite vaccination or antibiotic prophylaxis. If undergoing surgical procedures they will <b>require appropriate antibiotic prophylaxis</b> . If presenting with a febrile illness significant bacterial infection <b>must</b> be excluded and <b>careful attention paid to the potential for rapid deterioration</b> .  Always carry this card with you.
<b>Early antibiotic treatment if you feel sick or have a fever</b> (ask your doctor to write what you have been prescribed)		
<b>Vaccinations</b> check the Australian Immunisation Handbook for current recommendations <a href="http://www.immunise.health.gov.au">www.immunise.health.gov.au</a>		
COVID-19 _____		
Pneumococcal disease _____		
Haemophilus influenzae (Hib) _____		
Meningococcal disease _____		
Influenza _____		