

Boils

Boils are painful bumps that are filled with pus. Boils form under the skin when bacteria infect a hair follicle. A follicle is where a hair forms. Boils may occur anywhere on the body, but are most often found on the face, neck, armpits, buttocks and thighs. A boil often lasts about 14 days.

Signs of Boils

A bump or open sore that:

- Grows quickly, often within 24 hours
- Is red, yellow or white at the tip
- Has drainage or pus as the boil breaks open
- Swells
- Is warm
- Is tender or painful

Your Care

- Keep your skin clean.
- Do not pick or squeeze the boil. Bacteria can spread to nearby skin and cause new boils.
- Apply a clean, warm, wet washcloth to the area several times a day to aid healing and reduce swelling.

Call your doctor if you have:

- Signs that worsen
- A very painful boil
- A boil that has not healed in 14 days
- A large boil
- A fever
- More boils
- Red lines coming out from a boil. This may be a sign that the infection has entered your blood stream.

Talk to your doctor or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.