

# **Boils**

Boils are painful bumps that are filled with pus. Boils form under the skin when germs called bacteria infect a hair follicle 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 takes about 14 days to heal.

## **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 the infection to spread.
- Apply a clean, warm, wet washcloth to the area several times a day to aid healing and reduce swelling.

# Forúnculos

Los forúnculos son bultos dolorosos llenos de pus. Se forman debajo de la piel cuando un folículo piloso se infecta con gérmenes llamados bacterias. Un folículo es el lugar donde crece el cabello o el vello. Los forúnculos pueden aparecer en cualquier parte del cuerpo, pero es más común encontrarlos en el rostro, el cuello, las axilas, las nalgas y los muslos. Por lo general, un forúnculo tarda alrededor de 14 días en sanar.

## **Signos de los forúnculos**

Un bulto o llaga abierta que:

- crece rápidamente, con frecuencia en menos de 24 horas;
- tiene la cabeza roja, amarilla o blanca;
- al romperse, le sale pus u otra secreción;
- está hinchado;
- está caliente;
- está sensible o duele.

## **Su cuidado**

- Mantenga su piel limpia.
- No toque ni exprima el forúnculo. Las bacterias puede esparcirse a la piel que le rodea y causar la propagación de la infección.
- Para ayudar a curarlo y reducir la hinchazón, aplique un paño limpio, tibio y húmedo en el área varias veces al día.

## **Call your doctor if you have:**

- A very painful or large boil
- A fever
- New boils
- Red lines coming out from a boil. This may be a sign that the infection has entered your blood stream.
- A boil that does not improve by day 10
- A boil that has not healed in 14 days

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

2007 – 11/2011 Health Information Translations

Unless otherwise stated, user may print or download information from [www.healthinfotranslations.org](http://www.healthinfotranslations.org) for personal, non-commercial use only. The medical information found on this website should not be used in place of a consultation with your doctor or other health care provider. You should always seek the advice of your doctor or other qualified health care provider before you start or stop any treatment or with any questions you may have about a medical condition. The Ohio State University Medical Center, Mount Carmel Health System, OhioHealth and Nationwide Children's Hospital are not responsible for injuries or damages you may incur as a result of your stopping medical treatment or your failure to obtain medical treatment.

**Llame a su médico si tiene:**

- un forúnculo muy doloroso o de gran tamaño;
- fiebre;
- forúnculos nuevos;
- líneas rojas que salen de un forúnculo (esto puede indicar que la infección ha ingresado en el torrente sanguíneo);
- un forúnculo que no mejora luego de 10 días;
- un forúnculo que no ha sanado en 14 días.

**Hable con su médico o enfermera si tiene alguna pregunta o duda.**

2007 – 11/2011 Health Information Translations

Unless otherwise stated, user may print or download information from [www.healthinfotranslations.org](http://www.healthinfotranslations.org) for personal, non-commercial use only. The medical information found on this website should not be used in place of a consultation with your doctor or other health care provider. You should always seek the advice of your doctor or other qualified health care provider before you start or stop any treatment or with any questions you may have about a medical condition. The Ohio State University Medical Center, Mount Carmel Health System, OhioHealth and Nationwide Children's Hospital are not responsible for injuries or damages you may incur as a result of your stopping medical treatment or your failure to obtain medical treatment.

Boils. Spanish.