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## *Information for You from Your Health Care Team*

### **RINGWORM**

Your child has a skin condition called ringworm. Another name for this is tinea (tin-e-uh). You may hear your doctor or nurse use this name.

**What is ringworm?** Ringworm is a skin rash caused by a fungus infection. The rash is usually itchy, round and may spread. It may be on the body or in the scalp (skin under head hair). Your doctor will usually make the diagnosis simply by looking at the rash. If the rash is in the scalp, the doctor may use a cotton swab to obtain scalp flakes. This is called a culture and is sent to the lab. The culture help's identify ringworm.

**Can ringworm spread from person to person?** Yes, and in most cases from being in close contact with another person who has ringworm. It sometimes comes from pets.

**How is it treated?** Ringworm on the body is treated with a cream that you apply two times a day for 2 to 3 weeks. Ringworm of the scalp is treated by taking a medicine by mouth. This treatment usually lasts at least 6 to 8 weeks. You will need to come back to the office after 4 weeks of treatment for a check. It is very important to take all of the medicine or ringworm will likely come back.

**What if there are bald spots or hair loss?** The hair will grow back, but it may take a few weeks to months. In rare cases, the scalp is scarred from severe infection and hair will not grow again in that area.

**Can your child go to school or daycare?** Yes, as soon as treatment is started your child can go to school or daycare.

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**Date:**                      **Your doctor recommends that you use:**

Medicine:

Shampoo: