Policies and Procedures

Title: TUB BATHING - WATER TEMPERATURE AND TUB CLEANING PROCEDURE

I.D. Number: 1163

Authorization: [X] SHR Nursing Practice Committee

Source: Nursing

Date of Revision: June 2017

Date Effective: May 2008

Scope: SHR and Affiliates

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For the purpose of this policy, client will be used when referring to clients, patients, and residents.

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To ensure client safety and comfort while bathing.

1.2 To prevent burns from bath water.

1.3 To prevent transmission of infections.

2. POLICY

2.1 For clients requiring assisted baths, the staff member will ensure the temperature of bathing water is within safe limits prior to client entering the water.

2.2 When client must be in tub prior to filling (i.e. side entry tubs), staff must remain with client at all times and monitor temperature during entire filling process.

2.3 Recommended safe bath water temperature is 37-38°C (98-100°F).

   MAXIMUM SAFE BATH WATER TEMPERATURES:

   - Maximum Water Temperature – Neonate (0-1 month): 37.5°– 38°C
   - Maximum Water Temperature – Infant/Child (1 month-12 yrs.): 37°– 38°C
   - Maximum Water Temperature – Adolescent/Adult (12 yrs. & up): 37°– 42°C

2.4 The water temperature shall be documented on a designated Water Temperature Log sheet (see Appendix B).

2.5 Clients who prefer warmer bath water may articulate their request to staff; staff will follow preference as long as safe to do so and document same on log sheet. Maximum Temperature not to exceed 42°C. Refer to section 2.3 for maximum temperatures.

2.6 Staff shall be orientated to the bathing protocol by a co-worker, including use and cleaning of equipment and water temperature testing and this shall be documented on the facility/unit orientation checklist.
2.7 Use plastic, non-mercury floating thermometers (approved thermometers are available through stores - SKU # 202630) to test bath water temperature prior to client entering bath.

2.8 Equipment that is visibly soiled must be cleaned before use as well as in between clients. Follow your facility's policy/policies for proper precautions, frequency of cleaning, and cleaning of special equipment (refer to Appendix A & Infection Control Policy #20-80).

2.9 Clients should be supervised when bathing. If the client is safe to be bathing alone, ensure call light is within the client's reach. Check on client every 5 minutes.

2.10 Clients should not remain in tub longer than 20 minutes. If client requests longer, continue to follow 2.9 above.

3. PROCEDURE

3.1 Prepare the bath water according to the most recent tub manufacturer instructions.

3.2 Manually test the water by using a floating thermometer in clean tub water before immersing a client into a tub. Swirl the water with the thermometer to avoid hot spots and, if temperature not acceptable, adjust before immersing client.

3.3 Read the thermometer and ensure that the temperature is within the safe limit.

3.4 Check with client that water temperature is acceptable prior to immersing.

3.5 Thermometers must be removed from the tub prior to client immersion in the water. Clean the thermometer after every use with an appropriate disinfectant. Replace damaged thermometers, or those suspected of inaccuracy.

3.6 Document the date, client room number/initials, water temperature and testing method on a designated log (see Appendix B).

3.7 Completed the multi-client temperature logs (if used) and give to the Nurse Manager/designate for storage. Completed records must be kept for one year. Client specific records to be retained as on the client’s chart as outlined in the record retention policy.

3.8 Ensure tub is cleaned and disinfected following use following manufacturer’s instructions and in accordance with Infection Prevention and Control policy #20-80.

3.9 In the event that it is not possible to measure bath water temperature and/or clean tub following manufacturer’s instructions, tub must be removed from service.
4. REFERENCES


**To be done after every bath**

1. Drain the bath water, and rinse the inside surface of the tub with clean cool water from the shower handle.

![Image of a faucet](image)

2. Close the drain and put on appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (mask with eye protection). Apply tub manufacturer’s healthcare approved disinfectant on all areas of the tub. Be sure to disinfect the tub chair, take care to reach all areas of the chair, including underneath. Clean visibly soiled areas with tub manufacturer’s recommended cleaning tool.

![PPE images](image)

3. Let soak for the amount of time required for the disinfectant to properly disinfect.

![Clock](image)

4. Thoroughly rinse the tub, and initial the log sheet.

Form #103140  07/2017  Category: Clinical Workflow
# Bath Water Temperature Log Sheet

**Recommended Safe Bath Water Temperatures**

- **Neonates (0-1 month):** 37.5°C to 38°C
- **Infants – Child (1 month – 12 years):** 37°C to 38°C
- **Adolescent – Adult (12 years +):** 37°C to 42°C

**Water is tested by:**
1. Observing temperature of floating thermometer in the water
2. Checking client’s perception of water temperature before placing in the tub

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Initials or Room # of Client</th>
<th>Bath Water Temperature</th>
<th>Request an Increase in Water Temperature (Adolescent and Adult only) Not to exceed 42°C</th>
<th>Tub Cleaned After Use</th>
<th>Staff Initials</th>
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