



Department:	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)		
Document:	Departmental Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Bathing an Infant Inside the Incubator		
Applies To:	All NICU Staff		
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1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To prevent heat loss and maintain perfusion to a critically ill infant.
- 1.2 To prevent infection and promote hygiene in a premature infant.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Bathing an Infant Inside the Incubator** – newborn baby must be bathed in a warm environment and should be exposed briefly to prevent heat loss.
- 2.2 **Antiseptics** – these are liquid chemicals (germicides) used only for disinfection of the skin or other body tissues.

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 Infants with the following clinical conditions must be given a bath inside the incubator:
 - 3.1.1 With a cardiac monitor.
 - 3.1.2 With oxygen and intravenous therapy.
 - 3.1.3 The preterm infant with a weight loss less than 1800 grams.
 - 3.1.4 Post-operative.
 - 3.1.5 Intravenous sites and wound sites must not be immersed or soaked with water.
- 3.2 It is performed by an experienced nurse.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Routine bathing:
 - 4.1.1 Wash hands and prepare all the equipments.
 - 4.1.2 Wear PPE: isolation gown and disposable gloves.
 - 4.1.3 Fill a basin with warm water.
 - 4.1.4 Check the temperature of the infant prior to bath to prevent heat loss by evaporation.
 - 4.1.5 Wash eyes, ears, nose and face with clean water and cotton balls and dry thoroughly.
 - 4.1.6 Clean the body with soap and water. Clean the skin fold, interdigital spaces, and the neck.
 - 4.1.7 Dry thoroughly with a towel to prevent hypothermia.
 - 4.1.8 Clean the base of the umbilical cord with 70% alcohol.
 - 4.1.9 Inspect for any discharge/foul smell from the umbilical cord.
 - 4.1.10 Put on a clean diaper and ensure it does not cover the cord to prevent irritation and wetness on the site.
 - 4.1.11 Wrap the infant with a blanket to promote warmth or provide extra heat when parent hold the infant outside the incubator.
 - 4.1.12 Document the procedure and the infant's tolerance or response.
- 4.2 Bathing with an infected baby:
 - 4.2.1 Wash hands and prepare all the equipments
 - 4.2.2 Wear PPE: isolation gown and disposable gloves.

- 4.2.3 Spread full-strength chlorhexidine gluconate 4% solution from neck to toes, ensuring coverage of underarms, groin, and between fingers and toes.
 - 4.2.3.1 Rinse with warm water and dry your skin from neck to toes with a clean towel.
 - 4.2.3.2 Change the bed linens and the patient's clothing completely after each bath/shower.
 - 4.2.3.3 Repeat this process twice a day.
 - 4.2.3.4 Shampoo hair with the chlorhexidine solution for 3 days.

5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- 5.1 For Routine bathing:
 - 5.1.1 Basin or infant tub
 - 5.1.2 Warm water
 - 5.1.3 Mild shampoo or soap
 - 5.1.4 Towel
 - 5.1.5 Diaper
 - 5.1.6 Infant clothing
- 5.2 Bathing with an infected baby:
 - 5.2.1 Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) 4%,
 - 5.2.2 Clean linens for the bed and patient
 - 5.2.3 Personal protective equipment (PPE)

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Nurse





7. APPENDICES:

N/A

8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Directorate of Health Affairs in Tabuk Region, Health Sector in Tayma District, Tayma General Hospital, Ministry of Health, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
- 8.2 Photo Guide of Nursing Skills 2004, by Smith, Duell, Martin.
- 8.3 Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice, 7th Edition by Netina.
- 8.4 Neonatal Nursing Handbook by Kenner, Lott.
- 8.5 GCC Centre for Infection Prevention & Control Department, 3rd Edition, 2018

9. APPROVALS:

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