

	Policies and Procedures  Title: <b>TUB BATHING – WATER TEMPERATURE AND TUB CLEANING PROCEDURE</b>  I.D. Number: <b>1163</b>
Authorization:  [X] SHR Nursing Practice Committee	Source: Nursing Date of Revision: June 2017 Date Effective: May 2008 Scope: <b>SHR and Affiliates</b>

*Any PRINTED version of this document is only accurate up to the date of printing 13-Sep-17. Saskatoon Health Region (SHR) cannot guarantee the currency or accuracy of any printed policy. Always refer to the Policies and Procedures site for the most current versions of documents in effect. SHR accepts no responsibility for use of this material by any person or organization not associated with SHR. No part of this document may be reproduced in any form for publication without permission of SHR.*

**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

Alberta Health Services. (2013). *Best Practice IPC Guidelines for Selection, Cleansing, Disinfecting and Maintenance of patient Care Tubs*. Infection Prevention Control, Alberta Health Services. Retrieved May 31, 2017 from <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/infofor/hp/if-hp-ipc-guidelines-patient-care-tubs.pdf>

Alberta Health Services. (2014). *Safe Bath Temperatures*. Retrieved May 31, 2017 from <https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/policydocuments/1/clp-provincial-sh-safe-bath-temps-procedure.pdf>

Perry, A. G., Potter, P. A. & Ostendorf, W. R. (2014). *Clinical nursing skills & techniques* (8<sup>th</sup> ed.). St. Louis, Missouri: Mosby, Inc.

Saskatoon Health Region. (2012). *Policy Number 20-80: Non Critical Patient Care Equipment – Cleaning and Disinfection*. Infection Prevention Control Committee: Saskatoon Health Region.

Williams, L. (2006). Prevent hot water from scalding residents. *Nursing Homes Magazine*, August, 64-66. Retrieved June 17, 2013 from [http://www.goriskresources.com/Docs/NF/article\\_hotwater.pdf](http://www.goriskresources.com/Docs/NF/article_hotwater.pdf)



**Appendix B**



**SASKATOON HEALTH REGION**  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

RUH  SCH  SPH Other \_\_\_\_\_

**BATH WATER TEMPERATURE LOG SHEET**

Page 1 of 2

**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**

Date	Time	Initials or Room # of Client	Bath Water Temperature	Request an Increase in Water Temperature (Adolescent and Adult only) Not to exceed 42°C	Tub Cleaned After Use	Staff Initials
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
			_____ °C	New temp. _____ °C	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	