

UCSD Medical Center: WOMEN & INFANT SERVICES	POLICY/PROCEDURE TITLE: BATHING OF THE HEALTHY NEWBORN
RELATED TO: <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Center Policy (MCP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nursing Practice Stds. <input type="checkbox"/> JCAHO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient Care Stds. <input type="checkbox"/> CQI <input type="checkbox"/> Other Title 22	<input type="checkbox"/> ADMINISTRATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLINICAL PAGE 1 OF 3 Effective date: 1/06 Revision date: Unit/Department of Origin: FMCC Other Approval:

POLICY STATEMENT:

The healthy newborn's bath should be delayed until the infant is at least 24 hours of age in order to decrease cold stress and energy expenditure and improve parental bonding and breast feeding. When the infant is bathed after 24 hours of life a tub bath should be utilized and parental/familial participation encouraged.

RESPONSIBLE PARTY:

Registered Nurses from FMCC, Birth Center, Newborn Care Center

EQUIPMENT:

Tub bath, mild soap, warm water, towels, wash clothes, diapers, T shirt, hat

PROCEDURE:

1. The infant whose mother is HIV, Hepatitis B or C positive should receive a bath as soon as possible after delivery.
2. In the healthy newborn, if possible, the bath should be delayed until the infant is at least 24 hours of age.
3. After delivery, the infant should be dried per Neonatal Resuscitation Guidelines without wiping all the vernix from the baby. Visible blood and secretions should be cleaned from the infant.
4. If the hair is visibly soiled, the infant's head can be washed using mild soap and warm water while the infant is bundled. The face can be washed with warm water and dried.
5. The infant should be placed skin to skin with mother, if appropriate, to help stabilize temperature.
6. After 24 hours of life the infant should be bathed using a tub bath.
7. If appropriate, encourage parents or family members to give the bath.
8. Gather all supplies needed (no warmer is necessary).
9. Line tub with clean, disposable trash bag or other barrier, fill with warm water and place infant in the tub submerging up to the shoulders while supporting the head and neck. Wash infant with mild soap and rinse well.
10. Dry the infant immediately with warm, dry towel, place hat and put infant skin to skin with mother or clothe and wrap the infant well.

REFERENCES:

1. Gilstrap,L.C. ed, et al. Guidelines for Perinatal Care. Fifth Edition. AAP & ACOG 2003.
2. Guidelines for Neonatal Resuscitation. AAP & AHA 2005.
3. Lund, C. et al. Evidence Based Clinical Practice Guideline: Neonatal Skin Care 2001.