



Policy Name NAIL CARE AND CARE OF EQUIPMENT		Policy Number: 0165
		Effective Date: April 22, 2008
Approved By: Executive Team	Next Date for Review: December 2019	Date Revised: June 3, 2009 December 27, 2016
Classification: Delivery of Care to Residents and Families		Page No: Page 1 of 2

POLICY:

Basic nail care may be done by Resident Attendants (RA) and Registered Nurses (RN) at The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice. Designated volunteers, at the request of the resident, may remove and/or apply nail polish. Families are highly encouraged to hire a specially trained/certified professional to do their loved one's nail care. (Refer to Privately Hired Personnel including Nail Care Personnel and Hairstylist, Policy number 0164.) It is the family's responsibility to arrange all appointments and payment for the service. Nail care is contra-indicated in residents who are diabetic, unless done by a certified professional.

DEFINITION

Basic Nail Care: The care of the fingernails and toenails. Basic foot care is provided to Residents who do not have pathology or disease of, or affecting the feet. It can include cleaning, cutting, and filing of the nail. It is important to keep the nails clean and dry to prevent bacteria and other infectious organisms from collecting under the nails.

Advanced Foot Care: Foot care assessment and interventions for Residents who have pathology or disease of, or affecting the feet. This includes but is not limited to peripheral vascular disease, diabetes, lack of sensation, rheumatoid arthritis, hammer toes, and unpredictable movements.

PROCEDURE

1. On admission, the RN will assess the Resident's hands and feet, as well as review diagnosis. If the Residents only requires Basic Nail Care, it will be written in the care plan, and either RNs or RAs can provide this care. If the Resident requires Advance Foot Care the RN will notify the Resident and/or loved ones that Agape staff are unable to provide this care and if needed they must hire a specially trained/certified professional.
2. Nail care supplies **will not** be shared between residents.
3. Each resident **should** have their own personal set of nail care equipment; equipment must be kept clean and dry between uses for the same person. If soiled, clean with an alcohol wipe. When not in use, nail care equipment should be kept in a clean container (i.e. plastic container or baggy) and labelled with the Resident's name, and stored in his/her room.



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4. If a resident does not have their own equipment, disposable equipment from Agapé Hospice may be used and disposed of when no longer required for that resident. Disposable nail clippers, manicure sticks and emery boards are stored in the clean supply room.
5. Nail polish remover and nail polish **will not** be shared between residents. Each resident must have their own supply of nail polish remover and nail polish. If available, staff may use Agapé Hospice's nail polish supply but the bottle of nail polish **must** remain with that resident and be discarded at the time of discharge or death.
6. Staff must follow routine practices while doing nail care. Hands must be washed and gloves changed between residents.

CROSS REFERENCE:

Agapé Hospice policy 0164 – Privately Hired Personnel including Nail Care Personnel and Hairstylists

REFERENCE:

Alberta Health Services. (2013). Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Best Practice Guideline for Foot Care Devices. July 17, 2013.

Carewest Policy – Nail Care CS-02-04-04

The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Nova Scotia. (2012). Practice Guideline: Foot Care.