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5. Bath and shower temperature records are to be kept in the tub/shower area. Once completed they will be sent to the Nursing Lead and shall be retained for the current year plus 5 years.
6. Maintenance personnel will conduct daily temperature checks of the hot water storage unit and document in a separate log book.
7. Any scalding incident must be reported using an Incident Report Form and procedure. Reporting to the attending physician as soon as possible so that intervention for the resident can be accessed. The Nursing Lead, and subsequently Alberta Health Services will need to be notified.
8. Any breaches in controlled water temperatures detected at any point in the water storage and distribution system and at the point of bathing must be reported immediately as a safety hazard to the Managers.
9. All employees who are expected to assist with resident baths and showers will receive education at orientation, and shall be expected to demonstrate competency:
 - At the end of their orientation
 - On an annual basis, thereafter
 - Following any policy breach

DEFINITIONS

Assisted bath/shower:

A bath or shower where employees are required to assist the resident in any capacity. A resident may choose to ask a family member to assist with the bath/shower.

REQUIRED FORMS AND EQUIPMENT REFERENCES

Electronic forms location – FORMS

Hardcopy forms location – Nursing Station file cabinet.

1. Controlled Bathing Temperature Record
2. Daily Hottest Flowing Water Temperature Record
3. Shower Water Temperature Record
4. Incident Report Form
5. Shower Cleaning Record, Tub Cleaning Record
 - PPE
 - Integrated Tub thermometer
 - Hand-held waterproof thermometer for bath tub
 - Water Temperature Card for Shower
 - Nylon Cleaning Brush



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- Approved Disinfectant

REFERENCES

Alberta Health Services (2012). PS-47 Safe Bath Temperatures Policy, Revised November 28, 2017.

Alberta Health Services (2012). PS-47-01 Safe Bath Temperatures Procedure, Revised November 5, 2014.

Alberta Health Services (2014). PS-47-02 Safe Bath Temperatures – Hottest Flowing Water Procedure, November 5, 2014.

Alberta Health and Wellness. (2016). “Continuing Care Health Service Standards”.

Alberta Health. (2016). “Continuing Care Health Service Standards”, Prepared by Continuing Care Branch.



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Procedure

The purpose of this document is to outline procedures associated with safe bathing, and aligns with The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice Policy #0122, and Policy #1720. These procedures are in accordance with applicable legislation, codes, and evidence informed practices. Failure to comply with this policy and associated procedures can result in significant harm to the resident.

Safe Water Temperature Procedure:

1. Hottest Flowing Water Temperature

- 1.1 Taken daily by a Resident Attendant (RA) at the beginning of the day shift.
- 1.2 Turn the water tap in the tub to the hottest setting. (depends on the type of taps on the tub).
- 1.3 Run the hot water at the highest pressure until the hottest water temperature is achieved.
- 1.4 Take the water temperature by either reading the integrated tub thermometer, or by holding a hand held, water proof thermometer for at least 10 seconds under the water stream.
- 1.5 Record the date, time, exact temperature and employee initials on Daily Hottest Flowing Water Temperature Record.
- 1.6 If the temperature is hotter than 49° C:
 - An out-of-service sign must be placed on the tub,
 - Nursing Lead or designate, maintenance, and any employee who may be using the tub are to be notified.
 - The tub must not be used until Maintenance indicates it is safe to do so.

2. Bath Water Temperature Testing

- 2.1 Prior to every assisted tub bath, the temperature must be taken three times and recorded on the Controlled Bath Temperature Record.
 - Step 1:** Test and record temperature of water flowing into the tub, with one thermometer. The water must be tested at a controlled temperature. This thermometer can be either the integrated thermometer in the tub or a water-proof hand-held thermometer.
 - Step 2:** Once the tub is filled, turn the water off, and test and record the temperature with a different hand-held thermometer
 - Step 3:** Immediately prior to the resident entering the bath, the staff member and resident (when able to) will perform a sensory check of the water by immersing their forearm into the water for at least 5 seconds. Place a



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check mark in "Proceed" box in Step 3 column if the temperature is acceptable. If the water is not acceptable, check "Stop".

- 2.2 If at any time the resident indicates that the water is too hot, remove the resident from the tub, drain the water and repeat the temperature testing procedures.

3. Shower Water Temperature Testing

- 3.1 Prior to every assisted shower, the water temperature must be taken three times and recorded on the Shower Water Temperature Log.

Step 1: Test and record the temperature the shower water while it is running with a hand- held thermometer

Step 2: Immediately prior to the resident entering the shower, the staff member will perform a sensory check by placing their forearm into the water stream for at least 5 seconds. Place a check mark on the Shower Temperature Log in the second column.

Step 3: If resident can, he/she will perform a sensory check by placing their forearm (with intact skin) into the water stream for at least 5 seconds. If they are unable to staff will perform this task for a second time. Place a check mark on the Shower Temperature Log in the third column if the temperature is acceptable.

4. General Safety Procedures

- 4.1 A resident is not to be left unsupervised in the tub. A caregiver must remain with the resident at all time. A family member may replace the caregiver on an individual basis.
- 4.2 When transferring a resident onto the tub stretcher two caregivers are to be present.
- 4.3 Any caregiver who is uncertain regarding any equipment operation should seek help/advice from a co-worker, the Educator, or Nursing Lead.
- 4.4 The same caregiver will assume responsibility for all water temperature checks and completion of the bathing procedure for an individual resident.
- 4.5 Residents may request bath or shower water that is cooler than 38°C.
- 4.6 All bathing preferences will be recorded in the care plan.
- 4.7 Check the comfort of the resident throughout the bath or shower. Immediately stop if reddened skin is detected or resident reports discomfort.
- 4.8 Any scalding incident must be reported using an Incident Report Form and procedure. Reporting to the attending physician as soon as possible so that



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intervention for the resident can be accessed. The Nursing Lead will need to be notified.

- 4.9** Any breaches in controlled water temperatures detected at any point in the water storage and distribution system and at point of bathing must be reported immediately as a safety hazard to Maintenance and the Nursing Lead.

5. Tub Cleaning and Disinfecting

- 5.1** Personal protective equipment must be worn (eye protection, heavy duty rubber gloves). A mask can be worn if you are susceptible to airborne irritants.
- 5.2** Clean and disinfect the tub:
- At the beginning of the day
 - Between each resident's bath
 - At the end of the day
- 5.3** Rinse the tub, stretcher and gel pad with warm water.
- 5.4** Spray the tub, gel pads, and stretcher (including the safety arm and the handles, with the approved disinfectant with a nylon-bristled long handled or telescopic tub brush.
- 5.5** Set out the sign indicating the tub is dirty and being cleaned so it isn't used by anyone else. Set a timer for 10 minutes. The disinfectant must remain on the surface for 10 minutes, and the surfaces must stay wet.
- 5.6** Rinse all equipment with cold water.
- 5.7** Allow tub and stretcher to air dry. Place the gel pads on the indicated shelf to air dry.
- 5.8** If it is the last tub of the day, the tub and stretcher should be dried with a towel.
- 5.9** Place the clean sign on the tub stretcher.
- 5.10** Document on the "TUB CLEANING RECORD", and DAILY HOTTEST FLOWING WATER TEMPERATURE RECORD" that the morning cleaning has been completed.

6. Shower Cleaning and Disinfecting

- 6.1** Personal protective equipment must be worn (eye protection, heavy duty rubber gloves). A mask can be worn if you are susceptible to airborne irritants.
- 6.2** The shower room and equipment should be cleaned:
- At the beginning of the day;
 - After each resident use;
 - End of the day.
- 6.3** Any visible dirt/contamination should be cleaned off prior to disinfecting.



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- 6.4** A disinfectant approved for use at Agapé Hospice should be used to disinfect the following;
- Shower chair and foot rest;
 - Shower bench;
 - Gel pad;
 - Safety rails;
 - Hand held shower nozzle and hose;
 - Any other surfaces that the resident was in contact with;
 - Walls
- 6.5** Instructions for cleaning the above listed equipment:
- Remove the gel pad from the shower chair.
 - Spray and brush the surfaces listed above with the approved disinfectant
 - Allow all surfaces to air dry. **To avoid damaging the gel pad, it should be laid flat to dry and should not be hung over the back of the shower chair.**
 - Using the hand-held shower nozzle, rinse the floor as much as possible to ensure soap residue and other debris has been cleaned away.
 - Following each cleaning, including the “beginning of the day” cleaning, indicate on the “Shower Cleaning Record” that the cleaning has been completed.
- 6.6** Any equipment that is not routinely used (i.e.: shower bench) should be cleaned before, as well as after each use.
- 6.7** The floor of the shower room will be cleaned daily by the housekeeping staff.
- 6.8** The walls in the shower room will be disinfected weekly by housekeeping staff.

Maintenance Safe Water Temperature Procedure:

The purpose of this document is to outline maintenance procedures associated with safe bathing, and aligns with The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice Policy #0122. These procedures are in accordance with applicable legislation, codes, and evidence informed practices. Failure to comply with this policy and associated procedures can result in significant harm to the resident.

- 2.1** A service contract with the tub supply company will be in place for regularly scheduled review of functioning of all bathing tubs, alarms and thermometers.
- 2.2** Maintenance personnel will conduct daily temperature checks of the Domestic Hot Water temperature of the gauge at the outlet of the storage tanks. The temperature will be documented on the Domestic Hot Water Log. This log is kept in the boiler room.
- The temperature can also be checked on the hot water boiler display screen.



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- 2.3** All resident rooms and public access water outlets have mixing valves that are set at 43-47 °C.
- 2.4** Any breaches in controlled water temperatures detected at any point in the water storage and distribution system and at point of bathing must be reported immediately as a safety hazard to Maintenance and the Nursing Lead.