

# Sample Process Improvement Plan

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## OBJECTIVE: (example)

Assess whether the new method of patient bathing (Comfort Personal Cleansing® Bath) is an improvement over the traditional basin bath for bed-bound patients. Nursing staff opinions were polled to measure the following:

- 1) Increased compliance to protocol
- 2) Improved infection control measure
- 3) Improved nursing efficiency
- 4) Decreased linens and supplies
- 5) Patient preference
- 6) Improvement in the quality of care

Sage10060

## POLICY: (Sample)

The Comfort Bath® Cleansing System will be used on all patients requiring bed baths unless a patient declines or has any known sensitivities to ingredients. If a patient is incontinent, follow the incontinence care protocol.

## PROCEDURE: (Sample)

### Bathing a Patient with Comfort Bath

1. **Warming the Comfort Bath Product**
  - a. Warm according to directions on the package.
  - b. Consult package for complete indications, ingredients and warnings.
2. **Bathing a Patient with Comfort Bath Product**
  - a. Wash hands prior to the procedure and don a pair of gloves.
  - b. Explain the procedure to the patient.
  - c. Ensure the patient has privacy. Have patient remove gown or assist in the removal as needed. Use a towel or sheet to cover the patient appropriately.
  - d. Peel back the label on the package and test the temperature by touching the top washcloth. Remember, gloves diminish your sensitivity to heat. If temperature is acceptable, proceed to the next step.
  - e. Remove #1 washcloth. Apply washcloth to back of patient's hand or inside/forearm wrist area. Ask patient if the temperature is acceptable. If acceptable, proceed with next step. If NOT acceptable, STOP procedure. Repeat every 10 minutes until temperature is acceptable to the patient.
 

**KEY POINT:** *Continue to monitor patient's comfort level with the temperature as the bath progresses.*

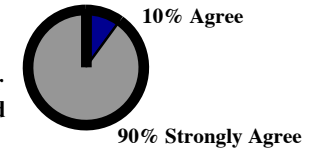
    - f. Using the #1 washcloth, clean the face, neck and chest. Discard when finished. No rinsing or drying is required.
 

**KEY POINT:** *Follow the bathing procedure in sequential order. This reduces the chance of cross-contamination by providing a clean cloth for separate areas of the body, while maximizing appropriate use of the product to prevent waste.*
    - g. Remove the #2 washcloth. Clean the right arm and armpit and discard.
    - h. Remove the #3 washcloth. Clean the left arm and armpit and discard.
    - i. Remove the #4 washcloth. Clean the perineal area and discard. If patient is incontinent, follow the incontinence care protocol.
    - j. Remove the #5 washcloth. Clean the right leg and discard.
    - k. Remove the #6 washcloth. Clean the left leg and discard.
    - l. Ask the patient to turn on his/her side, if able, or obtain assistance to turn, as necessary. Remove the #7 washcloth. Clean the back and discard.
    - m. Remove the #8 washcloth. Clean the buttocks and discard. If additional cleaning in the buttocks region is necessary, use the appropriate incontinence care products.
    - n. Apply clean gown, reposition and cover the patient as necessary.
    - o. Discard all disposables as general waste. **Do not flush Comfort Bath washcloths in the toilet.**
    - p. Document procedure in progress notes.

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## RESULTS: (example)

1) This new bathing method helps me better meet my unit's protocol.



Sample Results: You can create and import your own pie charts or graphs from information compiled from your facility's completed Clinical Feedback Forms.

2) I believe the Sage Comfort Personal Cleansing Bath provides a better infection control measure than reusable basins, laundered washcloths and tap water.

3) Sage Comfort Personal Cleansing Bath enables me to free up more time to focus on additional patient care activities.

4) With Sage Comfort Personal Cleansing Bath, I decreased the amount of linens and supplies used vs. the basin bath (ie. washcloths, towels, bed linens).

5) My patients prefer Sage Comfort Personal Cleansing Bath over the traditional basin bath.

6) I believe this new bathing method is an important improvement in the quality of patient care at this facility.