

Nursing Policy Manual Incontinence Care		SUBJECT: Patient Personal Hygiene POLICY NUMBER: PAGE 1 of 1	
APPROVED BY:		GENERATED BY:	
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ISSUED:	REVISED:	REVIEWED:	REFERENCE:

Standard of Care: #7408 Comfort Shield® Incontinence Care Washcloths (DIN 02245871) Multi-Use Pack (8 large washcloths/pkg.)

POLICY STATEMENT:

Comfort Shield Incontinence Care Washcloths from Sage Products will be used on patients who are incontinent of bowel and/or bladder after each incontinent episode. Comfort Shield Washcloths are to be used for incontinence care only, as part of a total bathing system such as the Comfort Bath® Cleansing System.

Comfort Shield Washcloths will not be used if the patient declines, has any known sensitivity to any ingredients, exhibits sensitivity to the product, or any other contraindication. Qualified nursing personnel and/or physician(s) have the responsibility to determine if Comfort Shield Washcloths are appropriate to be administered for stated use to the patient.

Purpose:

To help protect skin from minor irritation associated with incontinence, cleanse, moisturize, deodorize and provide a protective barrier to seal out wetness to the skin.

Equipment Needed:

1. #7408 Comfort Shield® Incontinence Care Washcloths Multi-Use Pack (for individual patient use only)
2. Comfort® Microwave or Comfort® Warmer

Procedure:

Comfort Shield Incontinence Care Washcloths may be used at room temperature. If warming is desired for additional patient comfort, use a Comfort Microwave or Comfort Warmer.

- A) Warming in Comfort Microwave: familiarize yourself with all indications, warnings and information displayed on Comfort Shield package.
 - 1 Follow Comfort Microwave Manual regarding installation.
 - 2 Before placing Comfort Shield package into microwave, peel label back to vent.
 - 3 Warm no longer than 45 seconds.
 - 4 Reseal package to retain warmth until use.

- B) Warming in Comfort Warmer: Familiarize yourself with all indications, warnings and information displayed on Comfort Shield package.
 - 1 Follow “Comfort Warmer Instructions for Use” to install and stock Warmer.
 - 2 Place packages inside the warmer. Within 2 hours “Ready” indicators will light up. These products are ready for use. If green “Take First” indicators are flashing, use those packages first.

- C) Cleansing the skin
 - 1 Tell the patient what you are going to do and continue communication throughout the procedure.
 - 2 Remove wet or soiled undergarment.
 - 3 If needed, gently remove large amounts of fecal material with toilet tissue, Chux, wipes, gown, etc.
 - 4 Remove Comfort Shield washcloth from package or tube, and if warmed, check the temperature before applying to skin. If there is any indication the washcloth is excessively hot, do not use. Remember gloves diminish sensitivity to heat. Closely monitor heat levels with infants, unresponsive or skin sensitive individuals.
 - 5 Cleanse perineal area with Comfort Shield washcloth. Use as many cloths necessary to remove urine and/or feces from the skin. Discard each washcloth after use, following appropriate policies for such soiled items. **DO NOT FLUSH WAHSCLOTHS DOWN THE TOILET.**
 - 6 Place clean, dry undergarment on patient. Change soiled or wet bedding if needed.
 - 7 Repeat cleansing procedure after each episode of urinary and/or fecal incontinence.

The information contained herein refers specifically to the cleansing of the perineal/sacral area of incontinent individuals with Comfort Shield washcloths. Additional interventions, rationales and steps should be added pursuant to your facility’s final plan of care, following standard nursing practice, other approved internal policies and procedures, and universal precautions.