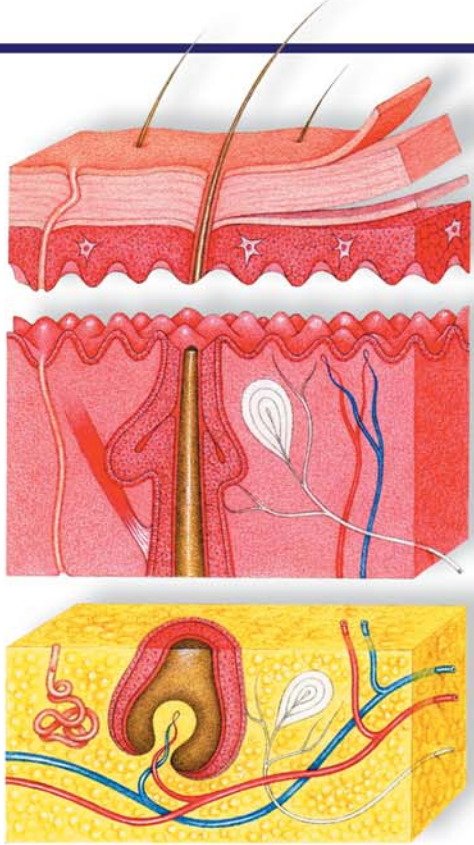


What the Experts Say About the Importance of Patient Bathing in Healthcare Facilities



“Bathing is important because it...

- gets rid of surface dirt and some microorganisms
- eliminates body odors
- stimulates circulation
- provides opportunity for observation of pressure areas, open areas, cuts, bruises, and rashes.”

Spencer C, Taking Care: A Guide for Nursing Assistants, 2nd Edition Chapter 10: Assisting with Personal Care: Bathing, Nursing Assistant Training Institute, Shoreline WA, 1999:148-149.

“Bathing serves three functions: health, social, and comfort. Health functions include cleansing the skin, controlling infection, and stimulating tissue and muscles. From a clinical perspective, bathing also provides an opportunity to conduct a skin inspection and to test range of motion. The social functions of a bath are to control body odor and enhance the overall well being of the patient. Finally, bathing serves a comfort function that provides relaxation and positive sensory stimulation.”

Bryant RA and Rolstad BS, “Examining Threats to Skin Integrity,” Ostomy/Wound Management, June 2001;47(6):18-27.

“Administration of the daily bed bath is seen by many nurses as one of their most important tasks (Webster, Bowman, Sutton, 1988) and a time to spend talking with the patient and/or assessing a patient’s condition.”

Kron-Chalupa J, et al., “The Basinless Bath: A Study on Skin Dryness and Patient Satisfaction,” Iowa City VA Medical Center.

“Bathing provides the best opportunity to observe skin condition, on back, buttocks and over bony prominences.”

Spencer C, Taking Care: A Guide for Nursing Assistants, 2nd Ed. Chapter 10: Assisting with Personal Care: Bathing, Nursing Assistant Training Institute, Shoreline WA, 1999:148-149.

“Bathing is an important routine procedure for patient comfort and to reduce infection risk....It is always preferable to use a fresh disposable wipe....We must not...be forced into abandoning procedures under financial pressure without first evaluating the effect. It is important to keep up to date with what has been evaluated as good practice and what has been abandoned as ritual.”

Ayliffe GAJ, et al., “Nursing aspects of prevention of infection: aseptic and hygienic techniques,” Hospital-acquired Infection: Principles and Prevention, Second Edition. Elsevier Science and Technology Books, Boston MA, 1990:58-59.

“A resident skin-care program should be developed to maintain the skin as a barrier to infection....Resident skin care should include the following:...keeping the residents clean and dry, inspecting all residents’ skin on a routine basis....”

Smith PW and Rusnak PG, “SHEA/APIC Position Paper: Infection Prevention and Control in the Long-Term-Care Facility,” In E Abrutyn (Ed.) Saunders Infection Control Reference Service: The Experts’ Guide to the Guidelines, 2nd Edition. WB Saunders Company, Philadelphia PA, 2001:105-120.

“Certainly, bathing is essential when the skin is soiled (eg, from surgical preparation solutions, blood, feces). The challenge is to consider the form, function, and frequency of traditional bathing and re-evaluate bathing so moisture retention and barrier function of the skin is not jeopardized.”

Bryant RA and Rolstad BS, “Examining Threats to Skin Integrity,” Ostomy/Wound Management, June 2001;47(6):18-27.