Bathing at Home Before a Procedure

Instructions for bathing or showering before coming for a procedure

You play an important role in reducing your child’s risk of infection by bathing or showering before a procedure. Bathing or showering with soap lowers the chance of a surgical site infection.

AT HOME, BATHE OR SHOWER YOUR CHILD TWO TIMES BEFORE THE PROCEDURE WITH SOAP AND WATER AT THESE TIMES:
1. 48 HOURS (2 DAYS) BEFORE PROCEDURE
2. 24 HOURS (1 DAY) BEFORE PROCEDURE

Germs can grow in certain areas of the body. These are the areas to concentrate on:

Always start with a shampoo of your child’s head. After the shampoo thoroughly cleanse ALL parts of their body with special attention given to (see diagram):

- Neck and behind the ears
- Hands, feet, and elbow creases
- Armpits
- Groin and diaper area

FRONT

BACK

DO
- use liquid soap (any kind)

DO
- wear clean clothes following bath/shower

DO
- report rashes, infections, open areas/sores BEFORE scheduled surgery date

DO NOT
- use bar soap

DO NOT
- use hair conditioner or leave-in styling products

DO NOT
- use lotion, cream, oils, powder or perfume after bathing

When you arrive at SickKids, you will be given a package of bathing wipes with instructions to use on your child before their procedure. This will also lower the chance of infection after surgery.