

Use of Substances on Skin

Evaluate all substances that come in contact with infant's skin.

Before using any topical agent, analyze components of preparation, and:

- Use sparingly and only when necessary.
- Confine use to smallest possible area.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, wash off with water.
- Monitor infant carefully for signs of toxicity and systemic effects.

Use of Thermal Devices

When prewarming heels before phlebotomy, avoid temperatures over 40° C.

Provide warm ambient humidity, directed away from infant; use aerosolized sterile water and maintain ambient temperature so as to not exceed 40° C.

Document use of all heating devices.

Use of Fluid Therapy and Hemodynamic Monitoring

Be certain fingers or toes are visible whenever extremity is used for peripheral IV or arterial line.

Secure catheter or needle with transparent dressing and tape to promote easy visualization of site.

Assess site hourly for signs of infiltration and inadequate perfusion (check capillary refill, pulses, color).