



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety Information

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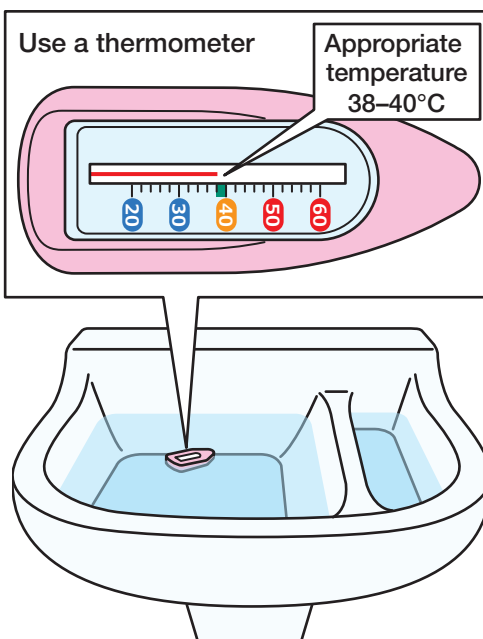
Burn while Bathing a Newborn or Infant

Six cases have been reported in which a newborn or infant suffered burns during bathing (information collection period: from January 1, 2014 to July 31, 2021). This information was compiled on the basis of the content featured in the Recurrence of Events and Occurrence of Similar Events section of the 60th Quarterly Report.

Cases have been reported in which a newborn or infant suffered burns during bathing because the water temperature was too hot.

Thermometer Usage	Number of Cases	Background to the Failure to Notice the Water Was Too Hot
Not used	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nurse did not use a thermometer, as no thermometer had been installed It was not customary to use a thermometer to check the water temperature, so the nurse checked by placing their hand in the water The nurse checked by placing their gloved hand in the water
Used	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nurse misread the thermometer display

How to check the water temperature



Burn while Bathing a Newborn or Infant

Case 1

When filling the baby bath with water, the nurse failed to notice that the temperature was set to about 60°C. No thermometer had been installed, so the nurse did not check the temperature of the water. The nurse was wearing two layers of gloves and therefore did not notice that the water was hot. When the nurse placed the infant in the baby bath, the child suffered burns covering their lumbar region and the backs of their legs.

Case 2

On the ward in question, it was not customary to use a thermometer to check the water temperature, so Nurse A used their bare hand to check how hot the water was after filling the baby bath. Nurse B put their elbow into the baby bath to check the water immediately before putting the infant into it, but did not feel that it was too hot. The infant began to cry after being placed in the water, so Nurse B took the temperature of the water and found that it was 44°C. As the skin on the infant's lower body showed pronounced redness, the child was examined by a dermatologist.

Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred

- **When bathing babies, always use a thermometer to check that the temperature is 38–40°C.**

The measure above is an example. Please consider initiatives suitable for your own facility.

* As part of the Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/Adverse Event Information (a Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare grant project), this medical safety information was prepared based on the cases collected in the Project as well as on opinions of the "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent the occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See the Project website for details.

<http://www.med-safe.jp/>

* Accuracy of information was ensured at the time of preparation but cannot be guaranteed in the future.

* This information is intended neither to limit the discretion of healthcare providers nor to impose certain obligations or responsibilities on them.

