



Japan Council for Quality Health Care

Project to Collect Medical Near-Miss/
Adverse Event Information

Medical Safety Information

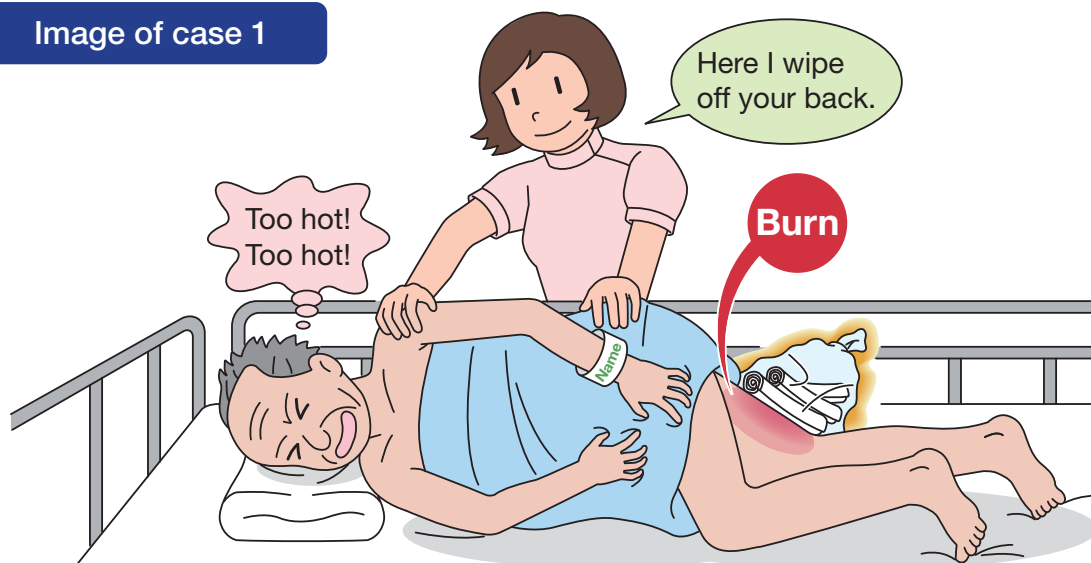
No.46, September 2010

Burn caused by a bed-bath towel

Four cases of burn due to a hot towel prepared in a plastic bag coming in contact with the patient's body during bed-bath, have been reported (information collection period: from January 1, 2007 to July 31, 2010; the information is partly included in "Medical Adverse Event Information to Be Shared" in the 10th Quarterly Report).

Cases of burn due to a hot towel prepared in a plastic bag coming in contact with patient's body during bed-bath, have been reported.

Image of case 1



- ◆ Burn injury during nursing care has been provided in Medical Safety Information No.5 "Burn during assisted bathing" and Medical Safety Information No.17 "Burn during use of a hot water bottle."

Burn caused by a bed-bath towel

Case 1

The nurse placed towels in a plastic bag for bed-bath near the patient's right thigh, with the patient in the right lateral decubitus position to wipe the patient's back. The patient screamed "Too hot! Too hot!" during the bed-bath, and redness developed on the right thigh.

Case 2

A whole body bed-bath was performed for the patient with a disturbance of consciousness and right-sided hemiparesis. The nurse who was performing the bed-bath left the patient to respond to a nurse call from another patient, and another nurse took over the bed-bath. When the patient was moved to the left lateral decubitus position, two hot towels for bed-bath were laid under the left thigh for about five minutes, and redness developed. The nurse placed two towels on the bed so they could be readily taken for wiping the patient's body.

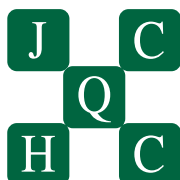
Preventive measures taken at the medical institutions in which the events occurred.

Do not place hot towels for a bed-bath on the bed.

* 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 "Comprehensive Evaluation Panel" to prevent occurrence and recurrence of medical adverse events. See quarterly reports and annual reports posted on the Japan Council for Quality Health Care website for details of the Project. <http://www.med-safe.jp/>

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

* This information is neither for limiting the discretion of healthcare providers nor for imposing certain obligations or responsibilities on them.



**Division of Adverse Event Prevention
Japan Council for Quality Health Care**

1-4-17 Misakicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0061 JAPAN
Direct Tel: +81-3-5217-0252 Direct Fax: +81-3-5217-0253
<http://www.jcqhc.or.jp/>