(A) Policy Statement

When patients are unable to perform the daily activities required for personal hygiene and grooming, nursing personnel will assist the patient.

(B) Purpose of Policy

Adequate nursing care promotes improved socialization, increases the patient’s self esteem and reduces the patient’s perception of overall isolation.

(C) Procedure

1. When the nurse determines that the patient is unable to assume total responsibility for personal hygiene, the nurse assigns two staff members to assist the patient.

2. If a patient has a history of sexual abuse, the staff will ask the patient to wash up genital areas if able to do so on their own. There will be two assigned staff members with the patient at all times that the patient is performing grooming activities.

3. For younger children and those that need intense care during bathing, a parent and/or guardian may be asked to assist with the bathing activity. Staff members will provide the necessary grooming supplies and check on the patient throughout the process. If the parents elect to assist the patient, then grooming will be done during the last part of visitation or visitation may be extended past regularly scheduled times for this to be completed.

4. Families should never be forced to do grooming, but it should be offered as an option.

5. If the family member is currently under investigation by a children’s social service agency and has supervised visitation, they will not be allowed to bath the child.

6. Patient education will be provided based on the patient’s age/developmental level and according to his/her assessed needs

7. Grooming and ADL skills/completion will be assessed on a daily basis. Grooming and other daily activities of care include but are not limited to: bathing, proper oral hygiene, hair care, and toileting.

8. The nursing staff members assigned to provide assistance to the patient are responsible for completing documentation.

9. Incontinent patients are cleaned and bathed immediately upon voiding or soiling with due regard
to privacy.

10. Changes in the patient’s ability to perform ADL’s independently, will be reported to the multidisciplinary team in treatment team meetings.

Approved by:

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Policies Superseded by This Policy: 1-M-40 Patient Personal Care

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