

Diaper Rash

While receiving treatment and care for childhood cancer

Diaper rashes (incontinence-associated dermatitis) happen when something damages the skin. Some medications like chemotherapy go everywhere in the body including urine (pee) and stool (poo). Chemotherapy can take up to 7 days to leave the body. If the urine and stool during and after chemotherapy stay on your child's skin too long, it gives them a higher chance of getting a rash. This can be painful and can lead to infection.

What are things that cause a diaper rash?

- Urine and stool contain medications such as chemotherapy or antibiotics that can damage the skin.
- Loose stool (diarrhea).
- Urinating more because they are getting more fluids.
- Moving around less because they are tired and sleeping more.

Regular checking is important to catch early signs of skin problems.

What can you do to prevent diaper rash?

- ✓ **Check diapers regularly** and change when soiled. Children who have diarrhea or IV fluids may need diapers checked and changed every 2 hours or more.
- ✓ **Clean the skin gently** with warm water and a gentle, fragrance free soap on a soft cloth. Avoid baby wipes that you can buy at a store. Use a soft cloth and pat to dry.
- ✓ **Apply a barrier cream to the skin with each diaper change.** You may use a barrier cream of your choice, or you can ask your nurse to use an ointment or paste recommended by the health care team.

Inform a member of the health care team about any signs of redness or if you are worried about pain when changing diapers.