

## FAQ

### Module 7 IPC While Bathing and Dressing Residents

**Facilitator notes:** Each Project Firstline CNA module is designed to provide 30 minutes of training content with optional post-training discussion using the *FAQ* files. Use any or all *FAQ* below to initiate further discussion among CNA after trainings, during huddles or team meetings, etc.

**1. Are there special considerations to take if I am bathing or dressing a resident with incontinence?**

Check every two hours to make sure the resident under your care is not incontinent. Follow your facility's policy or check with the nurse if needed. If linen or clothes become soiled, ensure new, clean linen is available and ready. Give frequent skin care for residents who are incontinent. It's important to keep residents clean, dry, and free from odor to prevent skin irritation and infection.

**2. As a CNA do I need to ensure that showers are cleaned between every resident?**

Yes, if residents share the shower area, the area should be wiped and cleaned between every resident. Usually, EVS staff cleans the area every day. Before giving a shower or bath make sure that the area has been cleaned by EVS staff. Follow your facility's policy on cleaning the shower area between residents.

**3. Do showers need to be cleaned between each use even if they have their own bathroom?**

Yes, if a resident has their own bath area, it should be wiped and cleaned before each and every use. Usually, EVS staff cleans the area every day. Before giving a shower or bath make sure that the area has been cleaned. Follow your facility's policy on cleaning the shower before giving bath to a resident.

**4. How do I check if EVS staff cleaned the shared shower?**

Usually, EVS staff cleans the shower area every day. If you are not sure, check for any soiled linen or areas in the shower. If you notice any soiled linen or area, clean the shower area before bathing your resident or ask the EVS staff to clean the shower area. Follow your facility's policy.

**5. What PPE should I wear when I bring a resident to the shared shower through the hallways?**

No PPE should be worn in the hallways. When you enter a room to prepare the resident for showering, perform hand hygiene hands upon entering, and wear appropriate PPE. If your PPE gets contaminated after getting your resident ready for the shower, take off your PPE and perform hand hygiene upon leaving the resident's room. You should not wear any PPE in the hallway.

**6. If I am working in the shower room, do I need to change my gloves before bathing or dressing a resident?**

Even if you are working in the shower room, you need to remove your gloves, perform hand hygiene, and put on clean gloves before bathing or dressing a resident.

**7. What do I do if a resident refuses to bath?**

Schedule bathing when the resident is least agitated. Be organized so the bath can be quick. Give sponge baths if the resident resists a shower or tub bath. During bathing, remain relaxed and allow the resident to enjoy the bath. Offer praise.

**8. Do we need to wear PPE when bathing a resident?**

This depends upon how much care you are providing and the type of precautions the resident is on. Usually, facilities provide a plastic gown or apron. Examples:

- If you are standing in the shower while monitoring a resident or if a resident is sitting on a shower chair, you would wear gloves to drape them in and out.
- When a resident is lying down on a gurney and is completely dependent on you for their shower, you need to wear gown and gloves for bathing.

**9. Is double gloving necessary when bathing or dressing a resident?**

CDC does not recommend double gloving while bathing or dressing a resident.

**10. Can a resident use their own soap for bathing or is there a standard soap to use?**

Follow your facility's policy on using soap.

**11. If two people from the same household, or two related people, share a room, do I need to perform hand hygiene between bathing and dressing either?**

Yes, you should always perform hand hygiene between caring for each resident. It is possible that one resident may have germs that the other doesn't, so always perform hand hygiene between resident care regardless of the relationship.

**12. What do I do if a resident requests to be bed bathed during every shift every day?**

If residents request a bed bath because that is what they feel comfortable with and feel that is best for them, that is okay! It is their patient right to make choices for themselves. It could be that they're uncomfortable with a shared shower or a bed bath is what they do at home.

**13. After a bath, can residents use their own lotion?**

Yes. Make sure that lotion is not shared among residents.

**14. Can we share personal items (e.g., towels, razors) between residents that are related (e.g., spouses, siblings)?**

You should not share any personal items among residents even if they are related to each other.

**15. Some of our residents like to share clothes with their roommates. Should we allow this?**

Clothing can be sometimes shared between residents. This is generally okay if both residents agree and the items are freshly laundered. Undergarments should not be shared.

**16. My resident has limited mobility and a limp leg. What is the best way to dress them without contaminating their clean clothes?**

Dress the affected limb first to prevent contamination of the clean clothes.

**References**

- [About Project Firstline | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/about.html)  
(www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/about.html)
- [Core Infection Prevention Practices | California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/2019_2_CoreInfectionPreventionPractices_Approved02.22.19.pdf) (PDF)  
(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/CDPH%20Document%20Library/2019\_2\_CoreInfectionPreventionPractices\_Approved02.22.19.pdf)
- [Personal Hygiene | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/body/index.html)  
(www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/body/index.html)