Clinical Practice Policy: Diaper Dermatitis
Effective Date: August 7, 2015; March 7, 2016

I. Diaper dermatitis pathway

Preventative Diaper Care
1) Change diaper every 3-4 hours
2) Clean with warm water, avoid soap if possible, pat dry
3) Apply petrolatum based product over buttocks and in creases (Vaseline or Boudreaux Paste)

Redness or Mild irritation
1) Zinc oxide-containing (Boudreaux Paste)
2) Barrier ointments and pastes do not need to be completely removed with each diaper change

Zinc is effective
Continue use of zinc based product until healed

Zinc/Petrolatum is not effective
1) Keep area clean and dry
2) Sensi-Care may be used with each diaper change
3) Remove with sitz bath once or twice daily
4) For intractable excoriation with denuded skin, consider adding karaya paste (stoma paste) to Sensi-Care
5) Consider skin culture to identify source of dermatitis

Excoration

Polymer products
-Criticaid Clear
-Cavilon swabs
(Do not use Criticaid Clear or Cavilon swabs more than twice daily)

Candida Albicans
1) Presents with erythematous plaques, satellite papules and superficial pustules, usually present in skin folds
2) Use an antifungal: Criticaid AF twice daily OR Nystatin ointment four times daily
3) In between antifungal application use polymer product like Criticaid Clear or Cavilon swabs twice daily OR Sensi-Care may be used with each diaper change
Prevention is key

- Do not remove vernix if applicable.
- Avoid friction by choosing the right diaper size.
- Provide infrequent baths (2-3 times a week) with no vigorous scrubbing. Gently clean skin with warm water and pat dry, avoid soap if possible.
- Barrier pastes and ointments do not need to be completely removed with every diaper change.
- Enzymes in stool react with urine to irritate the skin and cause disruption of the epidermal barrier. Topical ointments and pastes block moisture and irritants from contact with the skin.
- Vitamin A&D ointment is not recommended on skin that is red or irritated. Zinc oxide has healing properties and is better suited for irritated skin.
- Polymer products (Criticaid Clear® and Cavilon swabs®) may be used on skin that is broken down.
- Do not rub or remove barrier ointments (Sensicare protective barrier®) with every diaper change; gently remove layer of petrolatum and reapply. Barrier ointments should be removed gently, only once or twice a day in a sitz bath.
- Candida albicans is often associated with moderate to severe cases of diaper dermatitis. Some studies show miconazole in a petrolatum base (Critic-aid AF®) to be most effective in treating Candida.
- Per the AWHONN skin care guidelines petroleum should be used in infants less than 32 weeks gestational age.

II. Ordering and storage of diaper dermatitis products

Petrolatum-based products (Aquaphor®, Boudreaux’s Butt Paste®, Critic-aid clear®, Vaseline®, Vitamin A&D ointment), zinc oxide-containing products (Sensicare®, Boudreaux’s Butt Paste®), miconazole (Critic-aid AF®), and Cavilon swabs® do not require prescription. These products will be floor stock.

Nystatin (ointment and cream) requires prescription and will be stored in the Omnicell.