



Clinical Practice Policy:	Diaper Dermatitis
Effective Date:	August 7, 2015; March 7, 2016 ; January 7, 2021

Identify Infants at risk:

- Frequent loose stools
- Antibiotic use
- Opiate withdrawal
- Abnormal rectal sphincter tone
- Changes in diet (thickening agents, etc).

Prevention is key :

- Do not remove vernix if present.
- Avoid friction by choosing the right diaper size. Sizes 2 and 3 can be specially ordered for larger infants.
- Provide infrequent baths (2-3 times a week) with no vigorous scrubbing. Gently clean skin with warm water or cleansers containing emollients and pat dry.
- 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.
- Protect all skin that may be exposed to irritating agents or show signs of skin injury with thick applications of a barrier cream or paste such as zinc oxide.
- Petrolatum jelly over the barrier cream may help the diaper not stick to the thick barrier cream.
- Whenever possible, preferential use of products with the least number of additives should be used.
- 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.
- Avoid topical corticosteroids, antibiotic ointments, talcum powder, corn starch.
- Consider alternative treatments if diaper dermatitis persists such as fresh human milk.

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.

Diaper Dermatitis Algorithm

Preventative Diaper Care

- 1) Change diaper every 3-4 hours
- 2) Clean with warm water, pat dry
- 3) Apply generous amounts of petrolatum-based product over buttocks and in creases (Vaseline, Boudreaux Paste, or Aquaphor)



Redness or mild irritation

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

Worsening Irritation



Excoriation

- 1) Keep area clean and dry
- 2) Sensi-Care may be used w/ each diaper change
- 3) Sitz bath once or twice daily
- 4) For intractable excoriation w/ denuded skin, consider adding karaya paste or powder (stoma paste) to Sensi-Care to create a thick consistency.
- 5) Consider "crusting" procedure
 - Cleanse site
 - Apply stoma powder to affected skin
 - Spray cavilon
 - Pat
 - Allow to dry

(these steps can be repeated 2-3x to create a thick crust)

 - Apply Vaseline/cream over the crust so that the diaper does not adhere
- 6) Human milk can be applied to excoriated skin for healing properties as well
- 7) Consider skin cultures to identify source of dermatitis

Zinc is Effective

Zinc/Petrolatum is not effective

Continue use of Zinc based products until healed

Polymer products to consider:

- Criticaid Clear
- Cavilon Swabs

*These products should not be used more than twice daily and should be noted in the infant's skin care plan at the bedside or in progress notes

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 as ordered.
- 3) In between antifungal application use polymer products like CriticaidClear/Cavilon swabs twice daily **OR** Sensi-Care may be used w/ each diaper change.
- 4) The "Crusting" technique also may be used w/ Nystatin Powder