

Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Date received	03/08/2022	Subject	Infant skincare		
Passed to	Maternity	Date passed	09/08/2022	Respond by	24/08/2022
Category	Research	FOI number	2022-305		

Question/s to be answered

I would like to make the following freedom of information request to your NHS Trust:

1. What antenatal advice does the trust routinely give to mothers about infant skincare including the bathing of babies?
2. What postpartum advice does the trust routinely give to mothers about infant skincare including the bathing of babies?

Please let us know if you do not routinely give advice about this. If your trust has several hospitals and the advice differs at each hospital, please answer each question for each hospital. Your midwifery team and/or obstetrics team are likely to be able to help with this request. If you do not have a midwifery or obstetrics team please let us know.

The midwifery team give the same advice both ante natally and postnatally. Parents should use water only when bathing their baby ensuring that they wash all skin folds and that they dry their baby thoroughly. We do not recommend the use of any baby bath products however if the baby's hair is very bloody after delivery we would use a very small amount of baby shampoo to get it clean but emphasise to the parents this should not be routine. Parents are also advised on the timing of baths. All parents are offered a baby bath demonstration prior to discharge.

General skin care we would advise parents to ensure they examine baby's skin folds e.g. under their arms and in the groin area to check for redness and also to make sure that when putting on clothes that there are no creases which could cause any discomfort or rubbing. If parents notice dry skin we would advise them to use a small amount of baby oil on the affected area advising them to massage it in.

At each postnatal visit mum and baby are seen together. Baby would have a daily examination which includes assessing the condition of baby's skin and asking parents if they have any concerns.