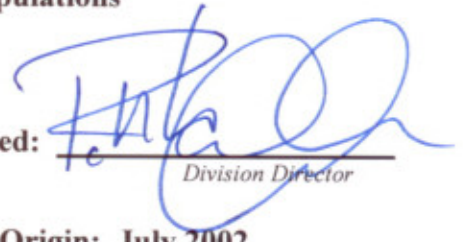


**Delaware Health & Social Services
Division of Developmental Disabilities Services
Community Services/Adult Special Populations**

Title: Bath/Shower Water Temperature Monitoring

Approved:



Division Director

Written/Revised By: DDDS Policy Committee

Date of Origin: July 2002

Date of Revision/Review: May 2010

I. Purpose

To establish procedures to ensure the protection of individuals from hot water while bathing/showering.

II. Policy

Hot water used for baths and showers shall be within 110-115 degrees Fahrenheit (110° -115°). Individuals receiving services shall receive the needed supports and supervision during bathing/showering that will ensure their protection from hot water injuries.

III. Application

Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDDS) Community Services/Adult Special Populations (CS/ASP) Case Managers
CS/ASP Residential Contractors (to include Shared Living Providers)

IV. Definitions

A. Calibrate - A process to adjust or standardize the graduations of a measuring instrument (thermometer).

V. Standards

A. All agencies contracted to provide residential services shall establish procedures to monitor and document hot water temperatures.

B. Essential Lifestyle Plans/Plan of Care (ELP/POC) shall document either that an individual receiving services can independently adjust the bath/shower hot water temperature **or** the specific type of assistance and supervision needed to adjust hot water to a comfortable temperature and to safely take a bath/shower.

C. Hot water temperatures shall be in the range of 110 to 115 degrees.

D. Water temperature less than 110° may be used for individuals who clinically required a lower temperature. These clinical exceptions shall be documented in the person's ELP/POC and reference given to the clinician who recommended the lower water temperature.
Example: PCP, Ellen Pierce, recommended that water temperature not exceed 110° due to Joe's skin conditions.

D. Immediate action shall be taken to modify the hot water temperature in excess of 115 degrees F or contrary to the ELP/POC (when lower temperatures are required) prior to the individual using the hot water.

E. Water temperature shall be measured and documented by contracted residential staff, in each Neighborhood Home bathroom, on a daily basis.

- F. The DDDS Case Manager shall monitor hot water temperatures, during monthly home visits. Prior to the home visit(s), he/she shall calibrate the water thermometer to test for accuracy. The procedure for calibrating the water thermometer is as follows:
 - 1. Place the tip of the thermometer a minimum of two inches into a 50/50 ice and water slush bath, without touching the sides or bottom of the container.
 - 2. Wait 5 minutes and check temperature reading. Adjust calibration nut, if needed, until indicator reads 32 degrees F.
- G. The Case Manager shall document calibration date and results and the bath/shower hot water temperatures on the Case Manager Home Visit Checklist or ID Note/T-Log, on a monthly basis. They shall take immediate action necessary to lower hot water temperature in excess of 115°.
- H. The procedure for taking a hot water temperature is as follows:
 - 1. Turn on hot water only.
 - 2. Allow hot water to run one full minute before testing by holding the tip of the water thermometer directly into the hot water stream.
 - 3. Record temperature only after temperature has stopped rising for 15 seconds or more.
- I. The Case Manager shall monitor a person's ability to regulate his/her own hot water temperature, on a quarterly basis, if his/her ELP/POC states that he/she is independent with the skill.
- J. The ELP/POC shall immediately be modified accordingly for any reason the individual receiving services is unable to regulate his/her hot water temperature or requires assistance.
- K. Policy standards may be waived, in accordance with the CS/ASP Standard Suspension Request Policy.

VI. Procedures

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Action</u>
Contracted Residential Agencies	1. Establishes procedures to monitor hot water temperature on a daily basis.
All Residential Contractors	2. Follows ELP/POC as it relates to providing Assistance with bathing and regulating hot water temperature.
DDDS Case Manager	3. Immediately notifies assigned Case Manager/Program Coordinator if the ELP/POC needs to be modified. 4. Monitors and documents hot water temperature, during monthly home visits. 5. Takes necessary immediate action to lower hot water temperature in excess of 115°.

VI. Procedures (continued)

6. Calibrates the water thermometer used to measure temperatures, prior to monthly home visits.

VII. References

- A. DE Regulations for Neighborhood Homes for Persons With Developmental Disabilities
- B. DDDS Standards for Community Living Arrangements
- C. Community Services/Adult Special Populations Waiver Request Policy

VIII. Exhibits

- A. Monthly Home Visit Checklist



For Office Use Only:	
Date Entered:	Initials:

**DELAWARE HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SERVICES
COMMUNITY SERVICES & SPECIAL POPULATIONS PROGRAMS**

CASE MANAGEMENT MONTHLY HOME VISIT I.D. NOTE

Individual's Name: _____

MCI #: _____

Service Location: _____

Date/Time of Visit: _____

Number of Staff on Duty: _____

Agency: _____

MONTHLY REVIEW:

	YES	NO	ACTION TAKEN	N/A
Environmental				
1. Hot water temperature (Record actual temp., location and calibration date) Allowable range: 110°-115°				
2. Exterior good repair/hazard free				
3. Interior clean/safe/odor free/comfortable temp.				
4. Bedroom good repair/personalized/private				
5. Fire evacuation plan posted				
6. Fire extinguisher/smoke detectors				
7. Fire Drill completed				
8. Adequate food supply/storage guidelines followed				
Consumer/Program				
9. Appropriate dress/hygiene				
10. ELP Supports being implemented/monitored				
11. Individual satisfied with their ELP				
12. Individual satisfied with residential services				
13. Individual satisfied with day/work services				
14. Recent recreation/personal activities				
15. Recent family contact/Inclusion				
16. Review and sign PSR's/purchases verified				
17. Quarterly Financial review				
18. I.D. Notes/T-Logs reviewed				
19. Rights complaint information accessible				
20. Emergency Restrictive Procedure Utilized				
21. Individual feels rights are respected				

Additional Comments/Case Manager Observations:

Senior Social Worker/Case Manager