Pharmacy Department

Fire hazard
(For paraffin based skin products on dressings and clothing)
Information for parents and carers

Introduction

If your child is being treated with a paraffin based product, for example:

- white soft paraffin plus 50% liquid paraffin emulsifying ointment which is covered by a dressing or clothing,

there is a danger that smoking or using a naked flame could cause the dressing or clothing to catch fire.

To stop this happening it is very important that you do the following:

1. Do not smoke, use naked flames (or be near people who are smoking or using naked flames) or go near to anything else which may cause a fire whilst these products are in contact with your clothes, dressing or bandages.

2. Ensure that your child's clothes and bedding are changed regularly (preferably daily) as the paraffin soaks into the fabrics and can potentially be a fire hazard.

    You should also be careful to make sure that the paraffin does not soak into the chairs, seating or other furniture.

3. Tell your relatives or carers about your child's treatment and show them this leaflet.

Your child's treatment is important, but it is essential that everyone is kept safe when using these products. By following the advice in this fact sheet, you will help us to make sure that your child is treated safely.

For further information or advice

Please speak to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any questions about the information in this fact sheet.

If you normally smoke tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. They will be able to offer you help and advice to stop smoking.

This fact sheet only gives general information. You must always discuss the individual treatment of your child with the appropriate member of the hospital staff. Do not rely on this fact sheet alone for information about your child's treatment. This information can be made available in other languages and formats if requested.

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Eaton Road
Liverpool L12 2AP
Tel: 0151 228 4811
www.alderhey.nhs.uk