

Umbilical Cord Care

Keep the umbilical stump clean and dry until it falls off which is usually between 2 and 4 weeks of life. As the umbilical stump is getting ready to separate from your newborn it may get slightly weepy. At that point in time you may clean the umbilical stump and the skin around its base with an alcohol prep pad. Clean around the base of the cord by pushing the cord from side to side and up and down. Note that a box of alcohol prep pads can be purchased from any pharmacy. The cord will loosen, fall off, and the navel will heal. Do not cover the navel with band aids or ointments. Should you notice pus or redness at the base of the cord, contact the office promptly. If this occurs after hours, first take the baby's temperature. If the rectal temperature is greater than or equal to 100.5, please call immediately. Otherwise, continue cleaning with alcohol with every diaper change and contact the office when it reopens in the morning.