

Checklist: Applying Topical Barrier Creams and Ointments

Applying Topical Barrier Creams and Ointments	Able to Perform	Unable to Perform
1. Perform hand hygiene before patient contact.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Review the patient's care plan, provider orders, and any instructions regarding prescribed creams or ointments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Gather necessary supplies, including gloves, prescribed barrier cream or ointment, applicators if required, wipes or washcloths, towels, and disposable pads if needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Identify the patient using facility-approved identification procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Explain the procedure and provide privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Raise the bed to a safe working height and lock bed wheels if providing care in bed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Apply gloves and other PPE according to standard precautions and facility policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Position the patient comfortably to expose the treatment area while maintaining dignity.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Cleanse the skin gently and thoroughly before application if needed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Pat the skin dry completely, especially in skin folds or moist areas.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Inspect the skin for redness, irritation, open areas, drainage, swelling, rash, or other abnormalities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Report abnormal skin findings to the supervising nurse according to facility policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Apply the barrier cream or ointment using gloves or an applicator according to manufacturer instructions and facility policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Spread the product evenly in a thin layer over the affected or vulnerable area unless otherwise directed.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Avoid excessive rubbing or pressure on fragile skin.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. Do not apply creams or ointments to open wounds unless specifically directed by provider orders or facility policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. Ensure the medication container or tube does not contact the patient's skin directly if contamination could occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. Reposition the patient as needed for comfort and pressure relief after application.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. Dispose of used supplies according to infection-control and facility procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. Remove gloves and other PPE according to infection-control procedures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. Lower the bed to the lowest safe position and ensure the call light is within reach.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. Perform hand hygiene after completing the procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Document the application, skin condition, product used, location applied, patient tolerance, and any abnormalities according to facility policy.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>