

Section: Division of Nursing
Approval: _____

* **PROCEDURE** *

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HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Revised by: P. Carpenito, RNC
C. Burns, RNC

NEWBORN SERVICES
(Scope)

TITLE: ADMINISTERING BAPTISM IN EMERGENCY

PURPOSE: To outline the steps for administering the rite of baptism to an infant in danger of death, when the clergyman of parent's choice is unavailable.

EQUIPMENT: Plain water or vials of holy water, seashell, and certificate of Baptism

CONTENT:	PROCEDURE STEPS:	KEY POINTS:
	1. Discuss baptism rite with parents and get verbal consent.	May perform baptism in room or nursery at family's preference.
	2. While pouring water on the forehead of the infant to be baptized, audibly speak the following words: "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."	Baptism should be performed by one who believes in efficacy of this rite. Water is to be poured on forehead, not top of head. Use a sea shell for baptism. Give shell to parents.
	3. Document in mother's chart that infant was baptized.	Inform parents that baptism was performed.
	4. Complete "Certificate of Baptism" and present it to parents.	Obtain correct spelling of infant's name beforehand.
5. If infant expires, inform parents, at an appropriate time, of Resolve Through Sharing information.	"Resolve Through Sharing is support for grieving parents.	