Procedure for checking Bath and Shower Temperatures

This procedure must be carried out prior to any full body immersion of a vulnerable patient. The hot water temperature results shall be logged by nursing staff recorded in the patient care plan.

1. Baths

The hot water tap **only** should be turned on and allowed to run for a **minimum** of one minute or until the water temperature stops rising.

The bath thermometer should then be placed under the running water for 10 seconds or until the temperature reading stabilises and the water temperature read and recorded.

The member of staff responsible for the immersion bathing of babies, children, or other vulnerable individuals, will measure the temperature of the water with a bath thermometer **prior** to the patient being immersed. This will ensure that the temperature of the water does not exceed 44°C. The temperature of the water will be documented in the plan of care/nursing notes following the procedure.

**All members of staff must follow this procedure even when the mother of the baby or anyone else is carrying out the bathing of a patient.**

2. Showers

The dial should be turned to the highest setting the water turned on and allowed to run for a minimum of 1 minute or until the water temperature stops rising.

The thermometer receptacle/container should be allowed to fill or be placed in a suitable receptacle i.e. a small plastic bag to collect the water. This should then be held under the running water until the thermometer becomes immersed and the reading stabilises. The water temperature can then be read and recorded.