

## Applying Medicated Patches



Medicated patches are applied to the child's skin so the medication can be slowly absorbed by the child's body. Medicated patches are left on the child for different lengths of time, so be sure you know if you or the parent is responsible for removing it.

You should also know what to do if the child removes the patch or if it falls off before the scheduled time to remove it.

In addition to any medication-specific instructions, follow these principles when applying a medicated patch:

- Before you put the patch on the child, write the date and time on it with a waterproof pen or marker.
- Put on gloves. You should wear gloves if:
  - ◇ the skin on your hands is cut, scabbed or broken;
  - ◇ the child's skin where the medication is to be applied is cut, scabbed or broken;
  - ◇ the medication to be applied should not touch *your* skin; or
  - ◇ you feel more comfortable wearing gloves to apply the medication.
- Choose the area where you will put the new patch. The area you choose should be free from any cuts or broken skin. Alternate sites unless otherwise instructed.
- Clean the area where you are putting the patch with soap and water.
- Be sure the area is dry before you put the patch on.

Follow these principles when removing a medicated patch:

- Put on gloves and remove the patch.
- Clean any medication left on the child's skin using soap and water, unless otherwise instructed.
- Throw away the used patch, rolled up inside the dirty gloves.



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