



Standard of Practice

This standard of practice is to support the PSW in providing safe, respectful and effective personal care to the public population in a dignified and ethical approach. Standards of Practice outline the expectations of the PSW and their responsibility in the delivery of care.

Bathing – The act of cleaning oneself or with some assistance. This care is probably the most private and intimate act that a person(s) can have done for them by a PSW. Respect and dignity provided to the person is the priority while performing this care. There are many types of bathing including, bed bath, tub bath, partial bath or shower. A total bath is necessary when a person(s) is unable to physically bath themselves.

If the person(s) is unable to climb in and out of the tub or shower independently, then the client would require Personal Support Worker assistance.

If the person(s) can get into the tub or shower independently but is unable to bathe themselves, then the person(s) would require a PSW. Sometimes dementia clouds the memory of the person(s) and even though they may still be able to physically get in and out of the tub or shower they may not remember how to bathe themselves or perform this task safely. This too would require a Personal Support Worker.

The PSW may also assist the person(s) with bathing if the use of a transfer device such as a Hoyer Lift or Transfer Board is required. Always follow the Care Plan.

PSW - Personal Support Worker

Resource - Sheila A. Sorrentino, PhD, RN, Leighann Remmert, MS, RN and Mary J. Wilk, RN, GNC(C), BA, BScN, MN, Mosby's Canadian Textbook for the Support Worker, 3rd Edition