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DIVISION OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES

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August 31, 1998

BRL Memo 98-03

TO: Family and Group Day Care Center Licensees

FROM: Patty Hammes, Director *Patty Hammes*
Bureau of Regulation and Licensing

RE: **Diapering and Disinfecting**

The purpose of this memo is to provide clarification to you regarding questions we've received about diapering and disinfecting. Both group and family day care rules regarding diapering state that child care workers shall:

“change each child on an easily cleanable surface which is cleaned with soap and water and a disinfectant solution after each use with a chlorine bleach solution of one tablespoon bleach to one quart water, made fresh daily”
(HFS 46.09(4)(a)3—group day care rule; HSS 45.07(5)(b)---family day care rule)

To disinfect means to destroy harmful germs. Bleach is the commonly used, approved disinfectant. It is recommended by the state Division of Health, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Public Health Association.

However, we are often asked if anything else can be used in place of bleach. Products containing quaternary ammonia compounds are commonly used in health care settings and are an acceptable alternative to bleach if the product has an EPA registration number.

You will not see quaternary ammonia listed on the product label. What you will see is the name of the quaternary ammonia compound itself. If any one of the following compounds is listed on the label, the disinfectant product is acceptable as an alternative to bleach:

1. Benzalkonium chloride
2. Dimethyl benzyl ammonium chloride
3. Dodecyl dimethyl ammonium chloride

Whether you use bleach or a product containing a quaternary ammonia compound, a two step process must be used. The two step process consists of first cleaning the surface with soap and water to rid the surface of organic material and then applying a disinfectant.

If you have any questions, please contact your licensing specialist.

c Interested Parties