

Less restrictions in daily life: a clinical practice guideline for children with cancer

COG Supportive Care Endorsed Guidelines

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“Less restrictions in daily life: a clinical practice guideline for children with cancer”, developed by the Dutch Children’s Oncology Group, was endorsed by the COG Supportive Care Guideline Committee in March 2025.

The source guideline is published (Stavleu DC, Mulder RL, Kruimer DM, et al. Less restrictions in daily life: a clinical practice guideline for children with cancer. Supportive Care in Cancer. 2024;32(7):419.) and is available at: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00520-024-08537-9>

The purpose of the source guideline is to develop a clinical practice guideline for clinicians, children, and their parents regarding social restrictions in children with cancer. The good practice statement and clinical practice guideline-derived recommendations from the endorsed clinical practice guideline are presented in the table below. The source guideline also includes expert opinion statements. Those who are reviewing the clinical practice guideline-derived recommendations for implementation may consider reviewing the expert opinion statements for added context.

**Summary of Recommendations for Less Restrictions in Daily Life:
a Clinical Practice Guideline for Children with Cancer**

RECOMMENDATIONS	Strength of Recommendation and Quality of Evidence*
1. We recommend against the use of bath toys that have a reservoir (in which water can be retained) or bath toys that cannot be dried thoroughly.	Strong recommendation Very low quality evidence
2.1 We suggest not to use warm publicly accessible bubble baths.	Weak recommendation Very low quality evidence
3. We suggest not to use chlorhexidine bathing or other bath wipes as it does not have an added value to basic hygiene measures.	Weak recommendation Very low quality evidence
9.1 We suggest allowing to keep domestic pets in the households of children with cancer.	Weak recommendation Very low quality evidence
11 We recommend allowing children with cancer to attend school or kindergarten irrespective of neutropenia (unless someone in their class or group has a contagious disease with potential severe consequences, e.g. varicella zoster).	Strong recommendation Very low quality evidence
13.1 We suggest allowing children with cancer to swim (irrespective of neutropenia).	Weak recommendation Very low quality evidence

*see [Appendix 1](#)

**Good Practice Statement for Less Restrictions in Daily Life:
a Clinical Practice Guideline for Children with Cancer**

GOOD PRACTICE STATEMENT
Proper hand hygiene should be performed by parents, caregivers and medical personnel.

Appendix 1: Systems for Classifying Recommendations and Evidence used by the Source Clinical Practice Guidelines

I. GRADE

Strength of Recommendations:

Strong Recommendation	When using GRADE, panels make strong recommendations when they are confident that the desirable effects of adherence to a recommendation outweigh the undesirable effects.
Weak Recommendation	Weak recommendations indicate that the desirable effects of adherence to a recommendation probably outweigh the undesirable effects, but the panel is less confident.

Strength of Recommendations Determinants:

Factor	Comment
Balance between desirable and undesirable effects	The larger the difference between the desirable and undesirable effects, the higher the likelihood that a strong recommendation is warranted. The narrower the gradient, the higher the likelihood that a weak recommendation is warranted
Quality of evidence	The higher the quality of evidence, the higher the likelihood that a strong recommendation is warranted
Values and preferences	The more values and preferences vary, or the greater the uncertainty in values and preferences, the higher the likelihood that a weak recommendation is warranted
Costs (resource allocation)	The higher the costs of an intervention—that is, the greater the resources consumed—the lower the likelihood that a strong recommendation is warranted

Quality of Evidence

High Quality	Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate of effect
Moderate Quality	Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and may change the estimate
Low Quality	Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate of effect and is likely to change the estimate
Very Low Quality	Any estimate of effect is very uncertain

Guyatt, G.H., et al., *GRADE: an emerging consensus on rating quality of evidence and strength of recommendations*. BMJ, 2008; 336: 924-926.

Guyatt, G.H., et al., *GRADE: going from evidence to recommendations*. BMJ, 2008; 336: 1049-1051.