PURPOSE:
To shave a patient in a safe and efficient manner.

CONSIDERATIONS:
1. Only shave patient when the procedure is included in the personal care assignment by the supervising nurse.
2. Preferably, shave patients with electric razors.
3. Use patient's own electric shaver or safety razor.
4. DO NOT use safety razor with a patient who is prone to bleed, takes blood-thinning medication, fragile skin or has poor circulation.
5. When a patient has no personal equipment, use only one-time disposable safety razors and dispose of properly.
6. Observe condition of safety razors for rust, nicks, cracks or chips.
7. Avoid potential electrical sparks around oxygen (shave with safety razor instead of electric razor).
8. Patients on anti-coagulant therapy should use an electric razor. The nurse/therapist should indicate if the patient is on bleeding precautions.

EQUIPMENT:
Basin of water - very warm
Shaving cream (optional)
Safety razor or electric shaver
Face towel
Tissues
Mirror, if available for patient to use
After-shave lotion (optional)
Face powder (optional)
Washcloth
Gloves and apron (for Standard Precautions)

PROCEDURE:
1. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
2. Explain procedure to patient.
3. Position the patient for comfort in a sitting or semi-sitting position.
4. Adjust a light so that it shines on the patient's face, but not in his eyes.
5. Shaving with a safety razor:
   a. Spread the face towel under the patient's chin. If the patient has dentures, be sure they are in his mouth.
   b. Soften beard with warm water, or use a damp, warm washcloth on the patient's face.
   c. Apply shaving cream generously to the face. If using soap, make a good, heavy lather.
   d. With the fingers of one hand, hold the skin taut as you shave in the direction that the hair grows. Start under the side burns, and work downward over the cheeks. Continue carefully over the skin. Work upward on the neck under the chin. Use short firm strokes.
   e. Rinse the razor often in the basin of water.
   f. Areas under the nose and around the lips are sensitive. Take special care in these areas.
   g. Wash off remaining shaving cream when finished.
   h. Apply after-shave lotion or powder, as the patient prefers.
6. Shaving with an electric razor:
   a. Adhere to Standard Precautions.
   b. Explain procedure to patient.
   c. Position the patient for comfort in a sitting or semi-sitting position.
   d. Adjust a light so that it shines on the patient's face, but not in his eyes.
   e. Make the patient comfortable.
   f. Turn on the electric razor. Shave with smooth movements in a back and forth motion. Shave in the direction of beard growth if the electric razor is a foil razor. Use a circular motion if the electric razor is a three-head razor.
   g. If applicable, moisten hands with aftershave lotion and pat the lotion on the patient's face.
7. Clean equipment and put it in its proper place.
8. Place disposable razor in a hard plastic disposable container. Electric razor needs to be cleaned by removing the head of the razor, removing whiskers and recapping head of razor.
9. Discard soiled supplies in appropriate containers.

AFTER CARE:
3. Report any changes in patient's condition to supervisor.

REFERENCE: