For Clinicians

BURN SAFETY

Why We CARE

75% of burns in children under age 5 result from scalding with hot liquids, tap water, or steam.

1,742 Emergency Department visits for burns occurred in Georgia in 2021.

243 children in Georgia under age 18 were hospitalized with burn injuries in 2021.

DID YOU KNOW?

Children under age 4 do not yet have the mental capacity to know to avoid hot liquids.

How to PLAY IT SAFE

Talk with parents and caregivers about reducing burn risk at home. Some conversation starters:

"Do you realize that one of the most important words you can teach your child is the word "hot"?"

"Have you considered setting your water heater to 120°F (48°C) or lower? Or placing anti-scald devices on faucets and shower heads?"

Give them the Toolkit sheet for Parents and Caregivers—and point out the sections on How to Play It Safe and First Aid for burns.

Tell Caregivers to SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION if a burn is blistering, swollen, and larger than the child's hand or if the burn is on the hand, foot, face, or genitals, or over a joint. Call 911 for electrical burns.

Burn Classification

Superficial (Primary): Skin is red, does not blister, painful. Involves only the epidermis.

Partial thickness (Secondary): Skin is red, blisters, and is painful and swollen. Involves the epidermis and part of the dermal layers.

Full thickness (Tertiary): Skin appears white, charred, and is painless. Burn is through entire epidermal and dermal layers.

Unsure whether a burn requires advanced care? Consult a burn center such as:

Joseph M. Still Burn Center, 404-732-7060

Walter L. Ingram Burn Center, 404-616-1000

PLAY IT SAFE

with poison prevention, safe sleep, firearms, teen driving, and more in the new Georgia AAP Toolkit—gaaap.org/play-it-safe/.