

## Help!!!! ——— I am Itchy

## Below are some things you can do to relieve itchy or dry skin.

## **Clothing and Home Environment**

- Wear loose, lightweight cotton clothes
- Do not wear rough clothes, such as wool and polyester, over itchy areas
- Use mild, unscented laundry detergent and double rinse
- Do not use fabric softeners
- Keep your home cool and humid, especially in the winter
- Use cotton bed sheets

## **Self Care and Keeping Skin Cool**

- Try not to scratch and keep fingernails short and clean
- Use a cold compress on itchy areas
- Bathe or shower for less than 15 minutes everyday in lukewarm (NOT HOT) water
- Use a gentle soap or cleanser to wash only the body parts that really need cleaning (sweaty areas like armpits and groin). Use water to wash the rest of your body.
  - Examples (you may try store brand versions of the products listed below):
    - Dove<sup>™</sup>, CeraVe<sup>™</sup>, or Cetaphil<sup>™</sup> cleansing bar or wash
    - Aveeno<sup>™</sup> body wash
- · Pat your skin dry instead of rubbing
- Moisturize your skin within 2 minutes of getting out of shower/bath when your skin is still damp. Use an unscented moisturizer CREAM (not lotion).
  - Examples:
    - Creams: CeraVe<sup>™</sup>, Cetaphil<sup>™</sup>, Lipikar Baume AP+<sup>™</sup>, Aveeno<sup>™</sup>, Glaxal<sup>™</sup> Base,
      Cliniderm<sup>™</sup> soothing, Uremol<sup>™</sup> 10%, Nivea<sup>™</sup>
    - Vaseline Creamy<sup>™</sup>, Aquaphor<sup>™</sup> ointment, Vaseline Intensive Care Problem Skin Therapy<sup>™</sup>
- Use an over the counter anti-itch skin product
  - Examples (you may try store brand versions of the products listed below):
    - Aveeno Anti-Itch cream™
    - Gold Bond Anti-Itch Lotion™

Tell your healthcare team if you have itchy skin, especially if it affects your everyday activities or your sleep.

