Cord Care

Clean the umbilical cord stump with an alcohol prep pad applied to the cord with every diaper change, at least four times a day. Clean around the base of the cord by pushing the cord from side to side and up and down. Note that a box of alcohol prep pads can be purchased from any pharmacy. Cleaning the umbilical stump with alcohol tends to hasten the "healing" by drying and removing dark, material (which is normal). The cord will loosen, fall off, and the navel will heal. Do not cover the navel with bandaids or ointments. Should you notice pus or redness at the base of the cord, contact the office promptly. If it is after hours then first take the baby's temperature. If the rectal temperature is greater than or equal to 100.5, please call immediately. Otherwise, continue cleaning with alcohol and contact the office when it reopens in the morning.