Folliculitis is a superficial or deep inflammation of a hair follicle. A small dome-shaped pus bump forms at the opening of the hair follicle. This occurs most often on the scalp, buttocks, underarms, arms and legs. Occasionally, the bumps will not go away without treatment. The pus bumps are generally painless. They may last several days to weeks before healing. The bumps may have a red ring around them. Sometimes, they occur in "groups."

Folliculitis is most frequently caused by a staphylococcal infection of the skin. "Hot tub" folliculitis is caused by the pseudomonas bacteria. A skin culture may be needed to show which type of bacteria is causing the folliculitis.

Recurrences of folliculitis are possible. If that happens, it may be that the bacteria your child carries may also be in the nose or in the perianal area. A culture of these locations may be necessary.

Treatment:

- Wash your hands.
- Gently clean the area with an antibacterial soap and water. Rinse well. Pat dry.
- Apply the topical antibiotic recommended by your child’s doctor.
- Wash your hands.
- Give the oral antibiotic as prescribed by your child’s doctor (if prescription provided).

Your child is to take:

_______________________________________ (medication and amount)

every ___________________ (how often) for ________________ (how long).

Prevention:

- Have your child avoid wearing tight fitting clothing. This can contribute to the development of folliculitis.
- Avoid the use of hot tubs or if used, be sure hot tubs are cleaned frequently and maintenance is done frequently and properly.
- Avoid the use of tight braids in the hair. Take braids down every night to relieve the pressure on the scalp.
- Wash your child’s scalp frequently.

If your child is shaving, be sure that clean razors are used and are not kept in the shower or bathtub. Bacteria can grow on these items and this can cause folliculitis from shaving.