

JHH Perioperative Service Local Guideline

Title

Pre-procedure preparation of patients from the Preoperative Clinic at JHH

Background

According to current best practice guidelines, the use of antimicrobial solution/soap prior to surgical procedures has not been proven to reduce surgical site infections. Therefore the use of antiseptic wash (Triclosan) in showering before surgery is to be phased out.

This is to be replaced with showering with normal soap in most instances. For certain types of procedures (listed below), non-rinse 2% aqueous chlorhexidine wash cloths are to be applied preoperatively as a more effective measure.

Guideline

Pre-operative and pre-procedure showering (ALL PATIENTS)

- All patients are recommended to shower or be washed with soap and water or bed bath wipe for bed bound patients on the day of surgery and be dressed in freshly laundered gown or clothes.
- Showering can occur at home prior to hospital entry or at the hospital on the morning of surgery according to hospital instruction.

Pre-operative and pre-procedure 2% chlorhexidine cleaning (Some patients)

- Patients undergoing the following surgeries or procedures (whether elective or emergency) should apply (or have applied by staff) non-rinse 2% chlorhexidine skin wipes on the morning of the day of the procedure after showering (prior to application of the wipes, staff should review the patient for cleanliness of skin). Application can be performed at home prior to hospital entry.
 - Cardiac surgery
 - permanent pacemakers
 - cardiac stents
 - aortic and valve surgeries
 - Orthopaedic surgery
 - Upper or lower limb hemi and total arthroplasties
 - Neurosurgery and Orthopaedic surgery
 - Laminectomies and spinal fusions
 - Vascular surgery
 - Aortic surgery (stent and open)
 - All lower limb open surgery for vascular reconstructions (bypass, endarterectomy)
 - Iliac stents

- Paediatric surgery
 - Open and Orthopaedic procedures only
 - Central venous access device (CVAD) insertion (e.g. Portacaths, Hickman lines) – Surgery, Paediatric and Medical Imaging services
 - Insertion of Peritoneal dialysis catheters, Permacaths or Vascaths in dialysis patients
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- After application to skin, the solution is allowed to dry and not washed off.
 - Discuss with Infectious disease clinician if allergy to Chlorhexidine.
 - All patients using the Chlorhexidine wipes should be given one packet of wipes and a patient FACT SHEET handout (see link and in appendix 1):

[http://intranet.hne.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/205457/IPS-018-FACT-1.4 Preparing for your procedure or surgery using chlorhexidine wash cloths Patient Information.pdf](http://intranet.hne.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/205457/IPS-018-FACT-1.4%20Preparing%20for%20your%20procedure%20or%20surgery%20using%20chlorhexidine%20wash%20cloths%20Patient%20Information.pdf)

Flowchart for patient pre-procedure preparation

ALL PATIENTS

To shower or be washed with soap and water or bed bath wipe for bed bound patients on the day of surgery and be dressed in freshly laundered gown or clothes.



SELECTED SURGERIES

(see list below)

Apply (or have applied by staff) non-rinse 2% chlorhexidine skin wipes on the morning of the day of the procedure after showering. Application can be performed at home prior to hospital entry.

MORE COMMON

- Cardiac surgery
 - permanent pacemakers
 - cardiac stents
 - aortic and valve surgeries
- Orthopaedic surgery
 - Upper or lower limb hemi and total arthroplasties
- Neurosurgery and Orthopaedic surgery
 - Laminectomies and spinal fusions
- Vascular surgery
 - Aortic surgery (stent and open)
 - All lower limb open surgery for vascular reconstructions (bypass, endarterectomy)
 - Iliac stents

LESS COMMON

- Paediatric surgery
 - Open and Orthopaedic procedures only
- Central venous access device (CVAD) insertion (e.g. Portacaths, Hickman lines) – Surgery, Paediatric and Medical Imaging services
- Insertion of Peritoneal dialysis catheters. Permacaths or Vascaths in dialysis patients

Consultation

Infection control – Dr John Ferguson

References

Author: Dr Paul Healey

Date: June 2020

Review date: June 2023

Appendices

Appendix 1 : Fact sheet for patient information

Appendix 1

Fact sheet for patient information (see link above and HNE intranet)

FACT SHEET

Issue date: 15/10/2019
Issued by: Infection Prevention Service
Authorised: Dr J. Ferguson
Expires: 15/10/2022
Document: IPS-018-FACT-1.1

Preparing for your procedure or surgery – using chlorhexidine wash cloths: Patient Information

Preparing your skin before a procedure or surgery can reduce your risk of infection. For specific surgeries, this hospital recommends cleansing with cloths moistened with a rinse-free, antiseptic solution (2% chlorhexidine gluconate) to reduce the number of microorganisms on your skin.

2 days before:

- Do not shave or wax any area of your body for 2 days before your procedure / surgery, including the legs and underarms. Men may shave their face.

Night before your procedure or surgery:

- Take a shower or bath and shampoo your hair using your normal shower products
- Dry yourself using a fresh **clean** towel
- Put on clean night wear and sleep in clean sheets

Morning of your procedure or surgery:

- Have a shower the next morning with soap- this will either occur at the hospital if you are an inpatient or at home before you come to the hospital
- Wear freshly clean laundered clothes to hospital.
- Hospital staff will assist with application of chlorhexidine wash cloths prior to your procedure. Follow the instructions below if asked to apply the wash cloths yourself.

Applying chlorhexidine non-rinse body wipes

The wash cloths can be used at room temperature or heated- use a microwave (800 watt) to heat the unopened packet for 20 seconds. If necessary allow the packet to cool prior to use.

Use one cloth for each area of your body as shown in the picture


- Wipe the cloth over the area using gentle friction
- Do not use on face, near eyes, ears body orifices or on broken skin
- Pay particular attention to underarms, navel area and all other skin folds and crevices
- Use a new cloth for the next area in the order described

When you have used all 4 cloths, allow your body to air dry for one minute. Do not rinse or towel off. Your skin may feel tacky for a few minutes.

Do not apply moisturisers, lotions or makeup after preparing your skin.

Dispose of used cloths into the garbage (DO NOT FLUSH).

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Health
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Preparing for your procedure or surgery – using chlorhexidine wash cloths: Patient Information

How to cleanse your skin:

1 st wipe	Starting from below your jawline wipe around your neck, arms and back.
2 nd wipe	Wipe your chest area, sides and then armpits
3 rd wipe	Wipe both legs, front and back starting from top and working to toes
4 th wipe	Wipe your groin and buttocks area

IMPORTANT
Check temperature of cloths before using.
Wait until they are body temperature /comfortable to hold.

