



Getting Your Child Ready for Surgery: Using Antiseptic Cloths to Help Protect Your Child from Infection

To help protect your child from infection after surgery, we are giving you antiseptic cloths called 2% chlorhexidine gluconate or CHG antiseptic cloths. You will need to wipe your child's skin with the cloths on the night before surgery and on the morning of surgery. These cloths destroy germs on your child's skin that may cause infection. For the CHG cloths to work best, you must follow these instructions.

CHG antiseptic cloths do not usually irritate or bother the skin. **You should talk to the healthcare team if your child has sensitive skin or any ongoing skin problems.**

You will be given 2 packages of CHG cloths. Each package has 3 individual bags of 2 cloths (total of 6 cloths in each package). Apply CHG cloths just before bedtime on the night before surgery. Apply CHG cloths again on the morning of surgery.

Follow these steps when using CHG antiseptic cloths:

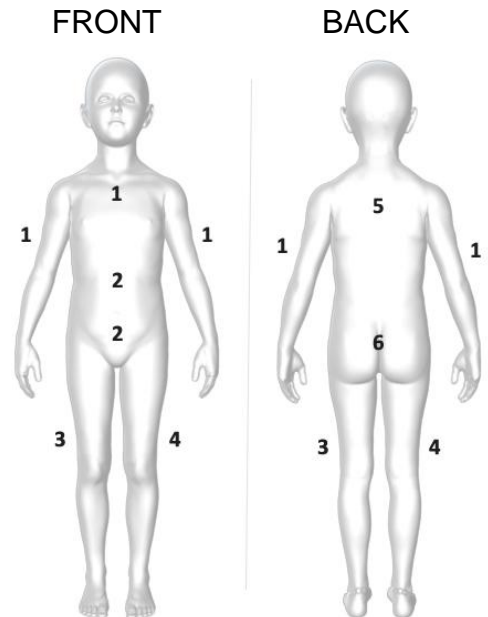
- 1. Do not apply CHG cloths to children under 2 months of age.**
2. Shower or bathe your child as usual the day before surgery. After this shower or bath, **do not** shower or bathe your child again or apply anything to your child's skin EXCEPT the CHG antiseptic cloths.
- 3. Wait at one hour or more after your child has showered or bathed to let the skin dry and cool before applying the CHG antiseptic cloths.**
4. When you are ready to apply the CHG antiseptic cloths to your child's skin on the night before surgery and on the morning of surgery:
 - a. Open the package.
 - b. Remove the 3 individual bags of CHG antiseptic cloths.
 - c. Open each bag and use both cloths.
 - d. Throw away the piece of foam in each bag.
 - e. You will use all 6 cloths in the package.

See next page.

5. **Gently** rub the CHG antiseptic cloths in a back and forth motion on your child's **cool, dry skin**. You should apply these cloths to **all** of your child's skin from the chin to the toes. **Do not** use the CHG antiseptic cloths anywhere on your child's face.

Apply the wipes to your child's skin in the order below. Throw away each wipe after you have finished using it. **Use all 6 wipes.**

- ① Neck, chest, both arms, and underarms
- ② Abdomen and groin
- ③ Right leg and foot
- ④ Left leg and foot
- ⑤ Back
- ⑥ Buttocks, including the skin fold



6. Allow your child's skin to air dry. **Do not** rinse. It is normal for the skin to feel "sticky" for several minutes after you use the wipes. You can put **clean** clothes or sleepwear (has not been worn since being washed) on your child once the skin is dry -- about 5 minutes after using the CHG antiseptic cloths.
7. Your child may have some itching or redness after using the wipes. This should go away quickly. **If the redness or itching does not go away after 10 minutes, rinse your child off and stop using the wipes.**
8. After you have applied the CHG antiseptic cloths to your child's skin, **do not** shower, bathe or apply lotions, moisturizers, deodorants or powders. The antiseptic wipes work best when left on clean, dry skin and no other products are used.

REMEMBER:

- Use 1 package of the CHG antiseptic cloths on your child's skin the night before surgery **and** 1 package on the morning of surgery.
- Apply the CHG antiseptic cloths to your child's **dry, cool and intact (no open sores or cuts)** skin. If you shower or bathe your child the day before surgery, **wait one hour or more** before applying the CHG antiseptic cloths to the skin.
- **Do not** apply anything to the skin EXCEPT the CHG antiseptic cloth the night before and the morning of surgery.
- **Gently** apply the CHG antiseptic cloths to your child's skin--rubbing the skin may cause irritation.
- **Do not** bathe or shower your child on the morning of surgery.
- Only put **clean** sleepwear or clothing (has not been worn since being washed) on your child after using the CHG wipes.

Questions?

During business hours (Monday through Friday from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm), call:

- HJD Pre-Admission Testing at (212) 598-6176
- Tisch Hospital Pre-Admission Testing at (212) 263-6570

After hours, weekends and holidays, call: Infection Prevention & Control- at (212) 263-4316