Let’s Talk About...

In partnership with Primary Children’s Hospital

Pre-surgery: Cleaning with CHG cloths

Everybody’s skin has bacteria and germs on it. This is normal and usually does not cause illness. However, even normal bacteria and germs can cause an infection after surgery. Cleaning your child with chlorhexidine (klor-HEX-ih-deen) cloths (also called CHG) before surgery can prevent infections.

**How do I clean my child with CHG cloths?**

1. **Before** you clean your child using the CHG cloths, first give them a bath with soap and water. Once you have washed and dried your child’s skin, you can begin cleaning them with the CHG cloths.

When you are selecting the right amount of wipes for your child’s weight, it is important to remember that bigger children need more cloths; smaller children need fewer.

Follow the guide in figure 1 to understand how many cloths your child will need for their size and which body parts you will need to wipe. In each package there are two cloths.

2. **Allow** your child’s skin to air dry. Do not rinse the skin. It is normal for the skin to feel sticky for a few minutes after CHG bathing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Less than 22 pounds (2 cloths, 1 package)</th>
<th>22–66 pounds (4 cloths, 2 packages)</th>
<th>66 pounds or more (6 cloths, 3 packages)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>First cloth:</strong> Neck, chest, tummy, and arms</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Second cloth:</strong> Back, legs, and buttocks</td>
<td><strong>Second cloth:</strong> Back and buttocks</td>
<td><strong>Second cloth:</strong> Right leg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Do not wipe your child’s private parts.</td>
<td><strong>Third cloth:</strong> Legs</td>
<td><strong>Third cloth:</strong> Left leg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Fourth cloth:</strong> Groin</td>
<td><strong>Fourth cloth:</strong> Back</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Do not wipe your child’s private parts.</td>
<td><strong>Fifth cloth:</strong> Buttocks</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Sixth cloth:</strong> Groin</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3 Dress your child in clean pajamas or a hospital gown when their skin is dry.

4 Do not put lotions, makeup, moisturizers, deodorants, or powders on your child’s skin after cleansing with CHG cloths.

Is there anything I should be careful of or avoid?

1 Do not bathe your child with CHG cloths if they are allergic to CHG or any ingredient on the cloths.

2 Do not use CHG cloths on your child’s head or face. Do not get the liquid in their eyes.

3 Do not use CHG cloths on or near private parts (vagina, penis, and anus).

4 Do not use CHG cloths on open wounds.

If you have questions about any of these instructions, ask your child’s healthcare provider.

Notes

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