



**Pre-Operative Antimicrobial (Chlorhexidine Gluconate)
Bath-- Instructions Using 2% CHG Disposable Cloths**

What You Should Know:

- Before surgery, you can play an important role in your own health. Because skin is not sterile, we need to be sure that your skin is as free of germs as possible before surgery. You can reduce the number of germs on your skin by following these instructions.
- **IMPORTANT:** You will be bathing with an antimicrobial bath product called chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG). ***Not to be used by people allergic to chlorhexidine.**

Instructions:

- Bathe with 2%CHG disposable cloths **EITHER**, the night before your surgery **OR** the morning of your surgery.
- You will be provided with a pre-warmed 3-pack of 2% CHG disposable cloths. If needed your nurse will assist you with bathing using the chlorhexidine gluconate cloths. Use the 2% CHG disposable cloths on all intact skin surfaces below the jaw-line. Do not use on the face.
- Allow to air-dry for one minute.
- Do not use the CHG cloths on open wounds, open skin areas, and surgical sites or on mucous membranes.
- Do **not** use the CHG cloths on your vaginal area. You may use regular bath soap for this area.
- Do not rinse, towel-dry, add lotion or powder to skin. This is to allow the chlorhexidine gluconate to dry on skin.
- Do **not** shave the area of your body where your surgery will be performed or scrub your skin too hard. This can lead to small cuts that can allow germs to enter the body.

Reference:

- Guidelines for Prevention of Surgical Site Infections. (1999). Hospital Infections Program, CDC.

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