**Patients With Devices: Prevent Infections During the Hospital Stay STAFF**

**Section 10-1**

**BATHE Daily With Chlorhexidine (CHG)**

# Bathe hospital patients with devices every day with a special antiseptic

# (CHG) to help remove germs and prevent infection. Six cloths should be applied as below:



* Use all six cloths. Use more, if needed.
* Clean all skin. **Avoid eyes and ear canals.**
* Tell patient this is their protective bath.
* Encourage bathing every day.

# Reminders

* CHG is better than soap and water at removing germs and works for 24 hours.
* CHG replaces soap and water for bathing.
* CHG is safe to use on normal skin and on surface wounds, rashes, and burns.
* Skin may feel sticky for just a few minutes until fully dry due to lotion or aloe vera in the cloths.
* Patients who self-bathe need direction on how to apply CHG thoroughly.
* Help patient clean 6 inches of all lines, tubes, and drains closest to the body.
* Your enthusiasm is the greatest predictor of patients wanting to use CHG.

# Clean All Skin Areas

Pay special attention to:

* + Neck (front and back)
	+ All skin folds
	+ Skin around all devices (line/tube/drain)
	+ Wounds unless deep or large
	+ Armpits, groin, between fingers/toes
	+ Safe on perineum, including female labia and genital surface

# Clean All Medical Devices

* CHG is safe on devices.
* Clean skin around device. Clean over non-gauze dressings.
* Use clean part of CHG cloth to clean device itself to remove bacteria. Be sure to clean the 6 inches of any line, tube, or drain closest to the body.
* Allow CHG to air dry. Do not wipe off.

# Bathing With CHG Cloths

* Firmly massage to clean skin. CHG will kill germs for 24 hours if applied well.
* Use only CHG-compatible lotions.
* Dispose of CHG cloths in a regular trash bin. Do not flush in commode.