

## NURSING EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

**PIN SITE (ORTHOPEDIC) CARE PROCEDURE****PURPOSE:**

To outline nursing responsibilities in the care of patients with orthopedic pins.

**SUPPORTIVE DATA:**

Sterile metal pins are inserted percutaneously to either provide bony stabilization (e.g., external fixation) or for skeletal traction.

Pin site care is performed as ordered. Based on nursing assessment, pin site care is performed using 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG Chlorhexidine Gluconate Gel Pad if dry. If draining kerlix is used as ordered.

Serosanguinous drainage is normal (48-72 hours) after initial insertion.

Pin site dressing following pin placement is generally kerlix wrapped around each pin.

\*Note: The National Association of Orthopedic nurses recommends using 2% chlorhexidine solution for pin site care.

**SUPPLY LIST:****Initial Pin Site Care**

- Non-sterile gloves
- Ordered solution (sterile Normal Saline, chlorhexidine gluconate [CHG] solution, Hydrogen peroxide)
- Sterile Cotton tipped applicators or chloraprep applicators/chloraprep swabs (2% chlorhexidine solution)
- Sterile suture removal kit (scissors)

**Dry Pin Site**

- Non-sterile gloves
- 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG Gel Pad

**Draining Pin Site**

- Non-sterile gloves
- 2" kerlix roll
- Sterile suture removal kit (scissors)
- Sterile Cotton tipped applicators or chloraprep applicators/chloraprep swabs (2% chlorhexidine solution)

- Ordered solution (sterile Normal Saline, Chlorhexidine gluconate [CHG] solution, Hydrogen peroxide)
- Sterile Drape

**CONTENT:**

| PROCEDURE STEPS  | KEY POINTS  |
|--|---|
| <b>PREPARATION</b>   |   |
| 1. Gather supplies.  |   |
| 2. Perform hand hygiene and don non-sterile gloves.  |   |
| 3. Remove all dressings from pins.   |   |
| 4. Inspect pin sites for loose pins, appearance (redness, swelling), drainage, tracking (open area where skin has pulled away from the pin) and odor.                  |   |
| 5. Remove and discard gloves, perform hand hygiene.  |   |
| 6. Create a general aseptic field by cleaning off and disinfecting working surface.  |   |
| 7. Open equipment, pour prescribed cleaning solution in sterile container.   |   |
| 8. Put on sterile gloves.  |   |
| 9. Clean skin at pin insertion site (s) with ordered solution, using moistened swab to gently wipe from puncture site outward to remove exudate, debris, and crusting. | Use a clean, cotton-tipped applicator for each site.<br>Allow site to dry completely.   |
| <b>DRY PIN SITES</b>   |   |
| 1. Apply 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG gel pads to any dry pin site(s).  | Perform pin care on dry pin sites before performing care for draining pin sites.<br><br>Change CHG gel pad every 7 days or as ordered (see attached). |
| <b>DRAINING PIN SITES</b>  |   |
| 1. Open both 2” Kerlix and keep in clear plastic wrap.   |   |
| 2. Soak one roll with ordered solution. Keep second roll dry.  |   |
| 3. Cut wet roll into 6–12 inch strips. One strip per pin.  |   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 4. Cut dry roll into 6-12 inch strips. One strip per pin.   |   |
| 5. Use a separate solution-soaked strip to clean each pin. Wrap one limb of the strip around a pin and use a back-and-forth motion to clean the pin starting at the level of the skin and moving outward. | Carefully remove crusting above the level of the wound during cleaning.<br><br>Allow the site(s) to dry completely after. |
| 6. If ordered, wrap dry strip around each pin at the level of the skin.   |   |
| 7. Remove gloves, perform hand hygiene, and don new non-sterile gloves between working with drainage pins.  |   |
| <b>COMPLETION</b>   |   |
| 1. Discard used supplies in appropriate receptacles.  |   |
| 2. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.  |   |
| 3. Notify provider of any changes in assessment.  |   |
| 4. Document the procedure.  |   |

|                        |  |   |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Initial date:<br>09/06 | Reviewed and approved by:<br>Professional Practice Committee<br>Nurse Executive Council<br>Attending Staff Association Executive Committee | Revision date:<br>07/15, 05/16, 1/20, 12/23 |
|------------------------|--|---|

**References:**

External Fixation Management, Lippincott February 2023

[Lippincott Procedures - External fixation management \(lww.com\)](#)

Providing Pin Site Care for Skeletal Traction and External Fixation, Dyanmic Health 2023.

[Providing Pin Site Care for Skeletal Traction and External Fixation - Dynamic Health \(dynahealth.com\)](#)

[ttps-multimedia-3m-com-mws-media-5874660-tegaderm-chg-dressing-evaluation-of-gel-pad-dressing-pdf.pdf](https://multimedia-3m-com-mws-media-5874660-tegaderm-chg-dressing-evaluation-of-gel-pad-dressing-pdf.pdf)

Providing Pin Site Care for Skeletal Traction and External Fixation: NRC Plus (ebsohost.com)

<https://web.s.ebscohost.com/nup/detail/detail?vid=3&sid=03dec5b6-dda2-4d20-abf9-4f9c3b11f4d5%40redis&bdata=JnNpdGU9bnVwLWxpdmUmc2NvcGU9c2l0ZQ%3d%3d#db=nup&AN=T704539>

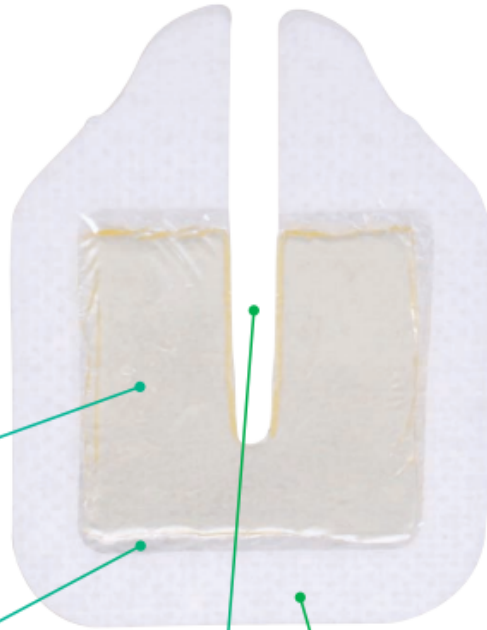


**Product Guide**

Drains, External Fixator Pins, and  
Other Percutaneous Devices

# 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG Chlorhexidine Gluconate Gel Pad 1664

With proven antimicrobial protection for intravenous catheters for over a decade, 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG technology is now extended to provide protection to a wide variety of percutaneous devices in an easy to use design.



**Transparent CHG gel pad**  
Provides antimicrobial protection and site visibility. No additional moisture is required to activate. Absorbs fluid.\*

**Highly breathable film**  
Helps release moisture.

**Pre-cut slit**  
Conforms to a variety of percutaneous devices.

**Adhesive border**  
Gentle, yet strong adherence to skin.

Image has been enlarged to show detail.

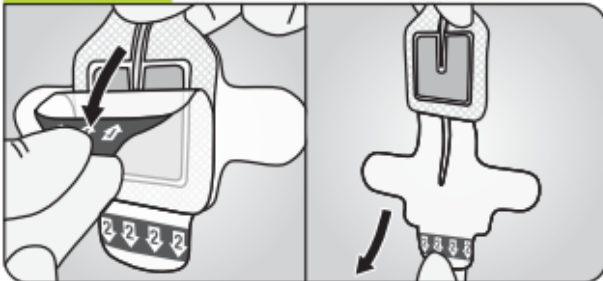
# 1664

## Product Guide

Drains, External Fixator Pins, and  
 Other Percutaneous Devices

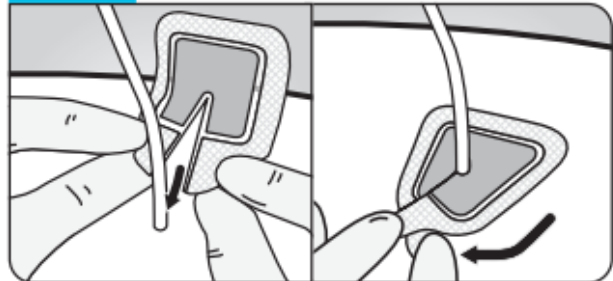
3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG Chlorhexidine Gluconate Gel Pad can be used for a variety of percutaneous device applications. Follow the below instructions for application and removal:

### Prepare



Prepare site according to facility protocol. Ensure site is completely dry. Remove liner 1, then liner 2 as shown above.

### Press



Place CHG gel pad around the device, covering the insertion site and ensuring that the device rests upon the slit of the gel pad. Per facility protocol, the CHG gel pad may be used in combination with a transparent semipermeable film dressing (e.g. 3M™ Tegaderm™ HP, 3M™ Tegaderm™ Diamond, 3M™ Tegaderm™ I.V. Port, 3M™ Tegaderm™ I.V. Advanced Securement).

### Monitor



Inspect the CHG gel pad daily and change as necessary, in accordance with facility protocol.

Change the dressing:

- At least every 7 days, or according to facility protocol
- If the gel pad remains displaced when pressed with a gloved finger
- If the gel pad is saturated, when the dressing becomes loose or soiled, or in cases where there is swelling, visible drainage, or lost visibility
- If active bleeding or blood is present outside the gel pad

Gel pad is not intended to absorb large quantities of blood or drainage. Cover and protect gel pad during patient bathing or showering.

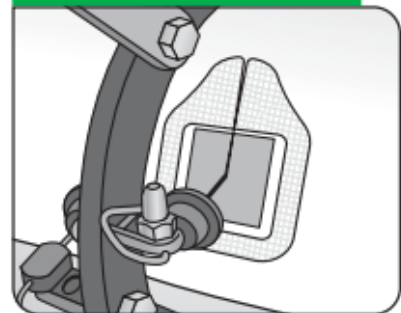
Refer to product instructions for Use for other important information.

### Removal



Remove protective dressing using stretch release technique. Remove CHG gel pad by peeling back white tabs using low-and-slow technique. If needed, use sterile fluid to help facilitate removal of gel pad.

### Other Applications



External Fixator Pin

### Ordering Information

| Product | Product Number | CHG Gel Pad Size                     | Dressing Size                        | Dressings/Box | Boxes/Case |
|---------|----------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------|
|         | 1664           | 1.18 in x 1.18 in<br>3,0 cm x 3,0 cm | 2.44 in x 1.94 in<br>6,2 cm x 4,9 cm | 25            | 4          |

### Important Safety Information for 3M™ Tegaderm™ CHG Chlorhexidine Gluconate Gel Pad

Do not use Tegaderm™ CHG Gel Pad on premature infants or infants younger than two months of age. Use of this product on premature infants may result in hypersensitivity reactions or necrosis of the skin. The safety and effectiveness of Tegaderm™ CHG Gel Pad has not been established in children under 18 years of age. For full prescribing information, see the Instructions for Use (IFU). Rx Only.



Scan to view a product training video or visit [3M.com/IVtraining](http://3M.com/IVtraining) to find product training resources for all 3M IV care solutions.



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