

LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING SERVICES

CHLORHEXIDINE BATHING- ICU PROCEDURE

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for the use of 2% chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) bath in adult ICU patients to replace routine bathing.

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

Patients in the ICU have a high propensity for numerous invasive lines and a high risk for hospital acquired infections (HAI). Daily CHG bathing is associated with reduced incidence of many HAIs including surgical site infections and catheter associated blood stream infections (CLABSI).

ICU Nurses and Nursing Attendants who have been trained in the procedure may perform this procedure.

CHG baths are not to be used:

- If the patient has an allergy to CHG
- If the patient refuses CHG bath (physician must be notified)
- On large/ deep open pressure ulcers or wounds. (CHG can be applied to superficial wounds including stage 1 and stage 2 pressure ulcers, skin rashes, and superficial burns)
- On the face or mucous membranes (anywhere above the jawline)
- For lumbar puncture sites or any place which would put CHG in contact with meninges

EQUIPMENT LIST:

- 1 Package of 2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate cloths (6 cloths per package)
- Additional packages as needed

CONTENT:

PROCEDURE STEPS

1. Obtain warmed CHG cloths from warmer.
 - Check temperature of the warmer to ensure temperature does not exceed 51.6° C
 - Ensure light indicator on the warmer is green
2. Explain procedure to the patient/family.

KEY POINTS

CHG cloths may be used at room temperature or warmed for patient's comfort. It must be warmed in a designated warmer; do not microwave

Light indicators on the warmer are as follows:

- Green: Cloths are ready for use
- Yellow: Cloths are not ready; it may take 2 hours for cloth to become warm
- Red: Cloths are expired; do not use and dispose of them

Do not pre-stock warmer; there is a short window of viability once warmed (72-84 hours)

PROCEDURE STEPS

KEY POINTS

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| 3. Perform hand hygiene, don personal protective equipment as appropriate, and use standard precautions. | |
| 4. Place towels or pads under body part to be cleaned. | CHG when wet may stain sheets. |
| 5. Use a washcloth with liquid soap and water and then rinse, or use regular bag bath to clean the face. | |
| 6. Bathe patient with water if patient has been incontinent/ skin is dirty/has excrement prior and dry thoroughly. Then bathe with CHG. | Stool and urine inactivate CHG.

If patient becomes incontinent during other times of the day, clean with water, dry thoroughly, and reapply CHG. |
| 7. Bathe patient with CHG cloths from jawline to toes. Use one cloth on each of the following areas (total of 6 cloths): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neck (front and back), shoulders and chest• Both arms and hands• Abdomen, groin• Right leg and foot• Left leg and foot• Back and buttocks | DO NOT use on the face, head or mucous membranes.

Use additional cloths if needed. |
| 8. Massage CHG into skin. Allow to air dry for 1 minute | Skin may feel sticky for a few minutes after CHG application (due to the aloe vera in the cloths). Do Not rinse or wipe off. This allows for maximum bactericidal activity of CHG. CHG has a “post antibiotic” effect in which residual CHG on the skin continues to kill bacterial. Rinsing or wiping off CHG after application may reduce the efficacy of CGH. |
| 9. Apply CHG cloths right up to the dressing for lines, tubes and wounds. May apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Over occlusive dressing• Over superficial and sutured/ stapled wounds | |
| 10. Perform thorough pericare using regular bag bath or liquid soap and water. | |
| 11. Clean tubes and urinary catheters from the insertion site to a point 6 inches from the patient. DO NOT use on the urinary meatus. | Clean tubes with cloth used for associated body parts (e.g. clean urinary catheter with cloth used for cleaning abdomen and groin). |

PROCEDURE STEPS

KEY POINTS

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| <p>12. Dispose of used and any leftover cloths in the trash.</p> <p>13. Wait at least 5 minutes before applying bandages.</p> <p>14. Wait at least 6 hours after CHG bath before applying skin creams and/or moisturizers.</p> <p>15. Document the following on the medical record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2% Chlorhexidine bath provided • Patient education regarding CHG bath • If the patient refuses CHG bath and that physician was notified | <p>DO NOT flush cloths; they will plug the plumbing</p> <p>Creams and moisturizers may limit the efficacy of CHG.</p> |
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Initial date: 1/19	Reviewed and approved by: Critical Care Committee Procedure Committee Epidemiology Professional Practice Committee Nurse Executive Council Attending Staff Association Executive Committee	Revision date:
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