Let's Talk About...

Bathing with CHG before surgery

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. Bathing your child with **chlorhexidine** (klor-HEX-ih-deen) cloths (also called **CHG**) before surgery can help your child so that she doesn't get an infection after surgery.

This handout will tell you how to bathe your child with CHG cloths before her surgery.

How do I bathe my child with CHG?

1. Bathe your child in the normal way with soap and water. Make sure your child's skin is dry before you begin the CHG bath.
2. Collect the right number of CHG cloths for your child's weight (there are two cloths per package).
3. In this kind of bath, you will wipe-down your child's skin with the cloths. This is not a bath in a tub. Bigger children need more cloths, smaller children need less. Use the cloths in the way that's right for your child's weight:

If Your Child Weighs	Use this number of cloths (there are two cloths in a package)
Less than 22 pounds (10 kg)	2 cloths (One package)
22 pounds up to 66 pounds (10-30 kg)	4 cloths (2 packages)
66 pounds or more	6 cloths (3 packages)

If your child weighs less than 22 pounds:

- With the 1st cloth, wipe your child's neck, chest, tummy, arms.
- With the 2nd cloth, wipe your child's back, legs, and buttocks (but do not wipe your child's private parts).

If your child weighs more than 22 pounds but less than 66 pounds:

- With the first cloth, wipe your child's neck, chest, tummy and arms
- With the second cloth, wipe your child's back and buttocks
- With the third cloth, wipe your child's legs
- With the fourth cloth, wipe your child's groin (but do not wipe your child's private parts)

If your child weighs 66 pounds or more

- With the first cloth, wipe your child's neck, chest, tummy and arms
- With the second cloth, wipe your child's right leg
- With the third cloth wipe your child's left leg
- With the fourth cloth, wipe your child's back
- With the fifth cloth wipe your child's Buttocks
- With the sixth cloth wipe your child's groin (but do not wipe your child's private parts)

3 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.

4 Dress your child in clean pajamas or a hospital gown when her skin is dry.

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

Is there anything I should be careful of or avoid?

1. Do not bathe your child with CHG cloths if she

is 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 her 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.
5. Do not use CHG cloths if your child is scheduled for a lumbar puncture.

If you have questions or problems with any of these instructions, please ask a nurse or technician for assistance.

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