

Let's Talk About...

Preventing Infection: Cleaning with antiseptic wipes 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. Cleaning your child with antiseptic cloths before surgery can help prevent your child from getting an infection.

What are antiseptic wipes?

Antiseptic wipes are germ-killing cloths used to wash the skin.

Why use antiseptic wipes?

Many different germs live on skin. A powerful antiseptic called CHG (chlorhexidine [klor-HEX-eh-dine] gluconate [GLUE-kon-ate]) can kill 99 % of those germs. Using CHG cloths can help prevent an infection by keeping those germs from getting into an open wound or your child's bloodstream.

Do not use CHG cloths if your child has:

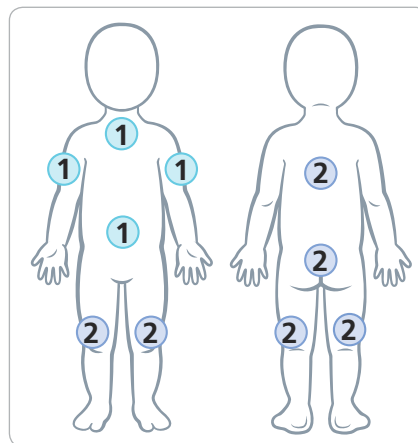
- An allergy to CHG
- Severe skin breakdown, rash, burns, or open wounds



If you have any questions, ask your child's healthcare provider for help.

How to use antiseptic wipes if your child is less than 22 pounds (2 cloths, 1 package)

- 1 Before cleaning your child using the CHG cloths, give them a bath with soap and water. Once you have washed and dried your child's skin, you can begin cleaning them with the CHG cloths.
- 2 Open a packet and place the cloths on a clean surface (each package contains 2 cloths).
- 3 Use only 1 cloth each for the 2 areas listed below and at right. Gently wipe your child's skin in a circle or back-and-forth motion.
 - Do not scrub.
 - Do not use antiseptic wipes on your child's face, upper neck, or head.



Cloth 1

Wipe your child's lower neck to the chest, then their tummy and arms.

Cloth 2

Wipe your child's lower back, then legs, then buttocks.

Do not wipe their private parts.

- 4 Let your child's skin air dry. It may feel sticky for a short time as it dries. **Do not rinse or wipe off the skin after using antiseptic wipes. Do not put on any lotions, creams, or powders.**
- 5 Dress your child in a clean pajamas or a hospital gown **only**. Do not put any of their old clothing back on.

If you have any questions, ask your child's healthcare provider for help.

Is there anything I should watch out for?

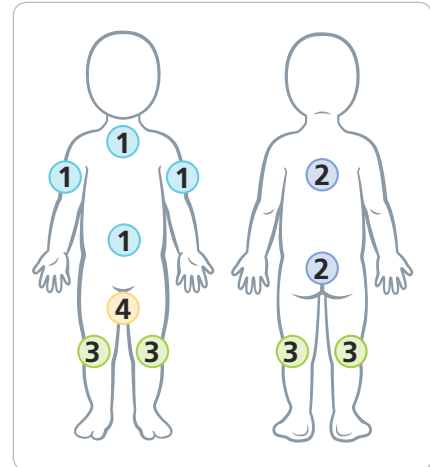
- Do not bathe your child with CHG cloths if they are allergic to CHG or any ingredient on the cloths.
- Do not use CHG cloths on your child's head or face. Do not get the liquid in their eyes.
- Do not use CHG cloths on or near their private parts (vagina, penis, or anus).
- Do not use CHG cloths on open wounds.
- When you are selecting the amount of wipes for your child's weight, it is important to remember that bigger children need more cloths; smaller children need fewer.

How to use antiseptic wipes if your child is 22 to 66 pounds (4 cloths, 2 packages)

- 1 Before cleaning your child with CHG cloths, give them a bath with soap and water. Once you have washed and dried your child's skin, you can begin cleaning them with the CHG cloths.
- 2 Open a packet and place the cloths on a clean surface (each package contains 2 cloths).

- 3 Use only 1 cloth each for the 4 areas listed below and at right. Gently wipe your child's skin in a circle or back-and-forth motion.

- Do not scrub.
- Do not use antiseptic wipes on your child's face, upper neck, or head.



Cloth 1

Wipe your child's lower neck to the chest, then their tummy and arms.

Cloth 2

Wipe your child's lower back and buttocks.

Do not wipe their private parts.

Cloth 3

Wipe the front and back of your child's legs.

Cloth 4

Wipe your child's inner thighs and groin crease.

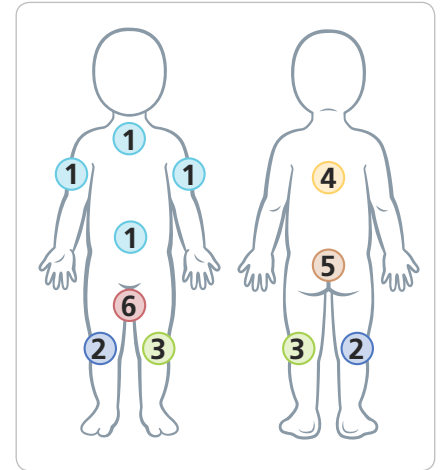
Do not wipe their private parts.

- 4 Let your child's skin air dry. It may feel sticky for a short time as it dries. **Do not rinse or wipe off the skin after using antiseptic wipes. Do not put on any lotions, creams, or powders.**
- 5 Dress your child in a clean pajamas or a hospital gown **only**. Do not put any of their old clothing back on.

If you have any questions, ask your child's healthcare provider for help.

How to use antiseptic wipes if your child is 66 pounds or more (6 cloths, 3 packages)

- 1 Before cleaning your child using the CHG cloths, give them a bath with soap and water. Once you have washed and dried your child's skin, you can begin cleaning them with the CHG cloths.
- 2 Open a packet and place the cloths on a clean surface (each package contains 2 cloths).
- 3 Use only 1 cloth each for the 6 areas listed below and at right. Gently wipe your child's skin in a circle or back-and-forth motion.
 - Do not scrub.
 - Do not use antiseptic wipes on your child's face, upper neck, or head.



Cloth 1

Wipe your child's lower neck to the chest, then their tummy and arms.

Cloth 2

Wipe your child's right leg.

Cloth 3

Wipe your child's left leg.

Cloth 4

Wipe your child's lower back.

Cloth 5

Wipe your child's buttocks.
Do not wipe their private parts.

Cloth 6

Wipe your child's inner thigh and groin crease.
Do not wipe their private parts.

- 4 Let your child's skin air dry. It may feel sticky for a short time as it dries. **Do not rinse or wipe off the skin after using antiseptic wipes. Do not put on any lotions, creams, or powders.**
- 5 Dress your child in a clean pajamas or a hospital gown **only**. Do not put any of their old clothing back on.

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