

## Preoperative Chlorhexidine Shower/Bath

1. All pre-surgical patients will receive a Chlorhexidine preoperative shower/bath the night before and the morning of surgery.
2. The RN writes Nursing Order reading **Chlorhexidine shower/bath night before and morning of surgery** on the physician's order form and signs it "Nursing Order/RN Name, RN. The unit secretary scans this order to the Pharmacy to obtain the chlorhexidine (on pyxis, most units). The Unit Secretary will also place an Electronic Nursing Order for Chlorhexidine bath/shower the night before and morning of surgery (as a reminder to nursing staff to ensure the baths/showers are completed).
3. Patient is to wash face and hair first with normal cleaning product.
4. Rinse body with water
5. Apply chlorhexidine liberally (do not dilute product) with a clean wash cloth and wash gently starting at the area where the incision will be made then proceed with rest of body neck down.
6. Allow the product to remain on the skin for approximately 2 minutes.
7. Rinse well with water and gently dry with a clean towel.
8. Provide new, clean bed linens after each preoperative shower/bath.
9. Document chlorhexidine shower/baths on eMAR and pre-procedure/pre-operative check list.

### IMPORTANT THINGS to REMEMBER...

- Do not shave any body parts from the neck down (legs, underarms)
- Do not use powder, lotion, perfumes, or deodorant after the bath
- Do not use chlorhexidine on the head or face (Keep out of eyes, ears, and mouth). If chlorhexidine accidentally gets into the eyes, immediately and gently cleanse the eye with saline and call the physician
- Do not use on open wounds
- Do not use on children less than 2 years old

