Section 10-6 – Decolonization of
Non-ICU Patients With Devices

Dos and Don’ts

DO

* **Use chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) daily instead of regular soap for all bathing/showering needs for entire hospital stay**
* **Use 2% leave-on CHG cloths for daily bed bathing or 4% rinse-off CHG liquid for daily showers**
* **Massage CHG onto skin for best effect**
* **Clean skin around all devices, and clean over non-gauze device dressings**
* **For any line, tube, or drain, clean the 6 inches closest to the body**
* **Use CHG on superficial wounds and rashes to remove germs**
* **For MRSA carriers, use nasal mupirocin twice a day for 5 days of unit stay**
* **Report mupirocin- or CHG-related events to treating physician and unit nursing director**

DON’T

* **Do NOT get CHG into eyes or ear canals**
* **Do NOT wipe off CHG after applying it with CHG cloths—let skin air dry**
* **Do NOT forget to clean the neck, all skin folds, and between fingers and toes**
* **Do NOT flush CHG cloths—put them in the trash**
* **Do NOT use mupirocin or CHG if patient is allergic to that specific product**

REFER TO NURSING PROTOCOL FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS