Section 10-2
Patients With Devices: Prevent Infections During the Hospital Stay
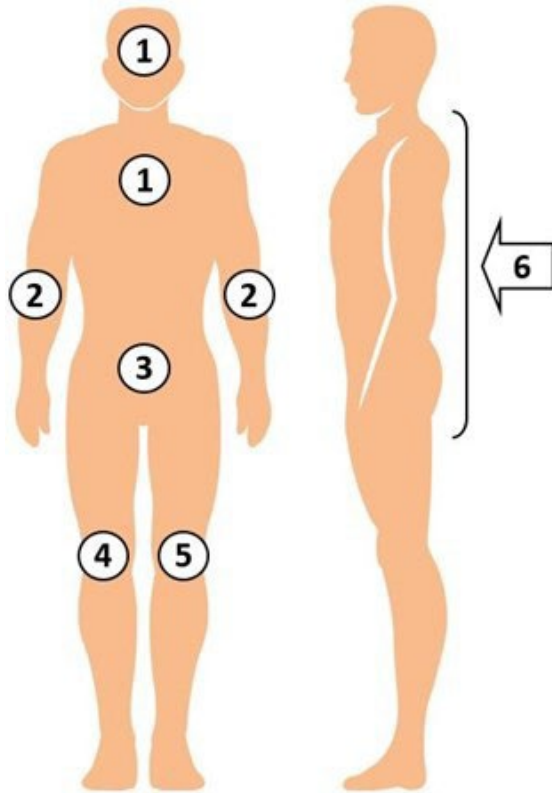**Shower With Chlorhexidine (CHG)**

STAFF

Shower hospital patients with devices every day with a special antiseptic (CHG) to help remove germs and prevent infection. Apply as shown below:

- Clean all skin. **Avoid eyes and ear canals.**
- Tell patient this is their protective bath.

Reminders

- CHG replaces soap and water for bathing.
- CHG is better than soap and water at removing germs and works for 24 hours.
- CHG is safe to use on normal skin and on surface wounds, rashes, and burns.
- Encourage showering every day.
- Use only CHG-compatible lotions.
- If barrier protection is needed, apply CHG and then apply barrier protection.
- Patients who self-bathe need direction on how to apply CHG thoroughly.
- Post-shower, unwrap devices and use CHG to clean dressings and the 6 inches of all lines, tubes, and drains that are closest to the body.
- Your enthusiasm is the best predictor of patients wanting to use CHG.

Clean All Skin Areas

Pay special attention to:

- Neck (front and back)
- All skin folds
- Skin around all devices (line/tube/drain)
- Wounds unless deep or large
- Armpits, groin, between fingers/toes

Showering With CHG Soap

1. Wrap all devices (e.g., central lines and midlines), as needed, to protect from water in shower.
2. Rinse body with warm water.
3. Wash hair and face with CHG.
4. Avoid getting into eyes and ear canals.
5. Turn off water, lather non-cotton cloth or mesh sponge with plenty of CHG.
6. Massage CHG onto all skin areas.
7. Leave soapy lather on skin for 2 minutes before rinsing.
8. After shower, unwrap devices and perform the following with a single packet of two 2% CHG cloths:

   o Clean the 6 inches of ALL lines, tubes, and drains (e.g., central lines, midline catheters, chest tubes, surgical drains, G-tube/J-tube, urinary catheter, rectal tube) that are closest to the body.

   o Wipe over non-permeable dressings. CHG is safe on devices and should be used over non-gauze dressings.

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PREVENT HAIs