



Pre-Surgical Skin Preparation Protocol

Purpose:

To reduce skin bacteria and lower the risk of surgical site infection.

Timing

- Begin cleansing **2 days before surgery**.
 - Continue cleansing **once daily for two consecutive days** — and **again the morning of surgery**.
-

Products (available over the counter)

- **Option 1:** Dial® Antibacterial Soap (liquid or bar)
 - **Option 2:** Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) Soap, 4% (e.g., Hibiclens®)
-

Instructions for Use

1. **Shower normally first**, washing hair and body as usual.
 2. **Turn off water** and apply the antibacterial or CHG soap directly to a clean washcloth.
 3. **Gently wash the surgical area** and surrounding skin, using small circular motions.
 - Do not scrub the area.
 - Avoid contact with **eyes, ears, mouth, and genital area** (CHG can cause irritation).
 4. **Rinse thoroughly** with warm water.
 5. **Pat dry** with a clean towel.
 6. **Do not apply lotions, powders, deodorants, or perfumes** afterward.
 7. **Put on clean clothing** and **sleep on freshly laundered sheets** the night before surgery.
-

Morning of Surgery

- Repeat the same wash.
- Do **not** shave the surgical area within 48 hours before surgery.
- Avoid using any other soaps, cleansers, or wipes unless instructed by your surgical team.