



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.