



GUIDELINE

Chlorhexidine Wash Procedure

Scope (Staff):	Nursing and Medical Staff
Scope (Area):	NICU KEMH, NICU PCH, NETS WA

Child Safe Organisation Statement of Commitment

CAHS commits to being a child safe organisation by applying the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. This is a commitment to a strong culture supported by robust policies and procedures to reduce the likelihood of harm to children and young people.

This document should be read in conjunction with this [disclaimer](#)

Aim

To reduce the transient colonization of potentially pathogenic bacteria.

Risk

Increased morbidity, mortality and increase risk of late onset sepsis.

Principles / Key points


- [Chlorhexidine 1% lotion](#) is to be used.
- [Chlorhexidine 1% lotion](#) is to be prescribed on inpatient medication chart.
- Use on infants in incubators on day 1 then on alternate days.
- All surgical infants are to have Chlorhexidine 1% lotion application the day before or day of surgery.
 - For high risk surgical patients, refer to Neonatology [Pre-operative Care Guideline](#) and CAHS [Staphylococcus aureus Decolonisation for Procedures](#) policy for information on decolonisation.
- Use on infants in open cots on day 1 then on alternate days until having routine baths.
- Should never be applied to excoriated or ulcerated areas of skin.

Procedure / Process

	Infants in Incubators	Infants in Cots
1.	Warm the Chlorhexidine lotion.	Warm the Chlorhexidine lotion.
2.	Increase incubator temp by 1-2°C	Remove ECG leads.
3.	Remove ECG leads if condition stable and not < 27 weeks.	Weigh the infant (if applicable).
4.	Weigh the infant.	Bath or minimal cleanse and dry thoroughly.
5.	If due for wash, use warmed water wipes if in NICU or warm water with cotton wool for babies in level 2 nurseries.	Apply Chlorhexidine lotion on a cotton wool sparingly to the body and head including the hands, paying particular attention the cord stump and body creases. Do NOT apply to face.
6.	Dry thoroughly, especially in body creases.	Wipe Chlorhexidine lotion from the hands at the completion of the procedure.
7.	Apply Chlorhexidine lotion on a cotton wool sparingly to the body and head including the hands, paying particular attention to the cord stump and body creases. Do NOT apply to face.	Replace ECG leads.
8.	Wipe Chlorhexidine lotion from the hands at completion of the procedure.	Check axilla temp in 1 hour if needed.
9.	Replace ECG if removed.	
10.	Return incubator temp to original level.	
11.	Check Axilla temp in 1 hour.	

Related CAHS internal policies, procedures and guidelines
CAHS Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staphylococcus aureus Decolonisation for Procedures Neonatology Clinical Guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-operative Care Guideline Neonatology Medication Protocols <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlorhexidine 1% lotion

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request.

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