

ANTIMICROBIAL SCRUB IN PREOPERATIVE HOLDING

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Purpose: Our institution performs over 100 surgeries per day. Several surgical procedures have been noted to have a higher frequency of surgical site infections (SSIs). The peri-anesthesia care unit (PACU) wanted to be proactive in reducing SSIs and started a Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) scrub on select patients preoperatively. This was in addition to the surgeon's instructions for preoperative scrub.

Implementation: A perioperative team met to discuss a no-rinse CHG wipe for preoperative patients. The patient population was chosen to include spinal surgeries, abdominal hysterectomies, and total joint replacements. A vendor was contacted to provide cloths impregnated with 2% chlorhexidine gluconate. In-services were conducted to introduce staff to the product. If a patient requires a CHG wipe, the RN places a visual cue outside the patient bay to alert the PCT staff of this step. Patient Care Technicians were instructed to apply the product over the back, hip/leg, or abdomen, depending on the surgical site. Applying wipe and waiting for skin to dry takes up to two minutes. Once dry the patients can dress in their hospital gowns.

Evaluation: Patient Care Technicians have incorporated this task into the morning routine of getting patients ready for surgery. Patients are accepting of the scrub. Hospital wide SSIs will be monitored for any changes.