



CLINICAL GUIDELINE	
Chlorhexidine Wash Procedure	
Scope (Staff):	Nursing and Medical Staff
Scope (Area):	NICU KEMH, NICU PCH, NETS WA
Child Safe Organisation Statement of Commitment	
The Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) commits to being a child safe organisation by meeting the National Child Safe Principles and National Child Safe Standards. This is a commitment to a strong culture supported by robust policies and procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children at CAHS.	

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

Aim

To reduce the transient colonization of potentially pathogenic bacteria.

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.
- 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

Infants in Incubators

1. Warm the Chlorhexidine lotion.
2. Increase incubator temp by 1-2°
3. Remove ECG leads if condition stable and not < 27 weeks.
4. Weigh the infant (if applicable).
5. If due for wash, use warmed water wipes if in NICU or warm water with cotton wool for babies in level 2 nurseries.
6. Dry thoroughly, especially in body creases.
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.
8. Wipe chlorhexidine lotion from the hands at completion of the procedure.
9. Replace ECG if removed.


10. Return incubator temp to original level.
11. Check Axilla temp in 1 hour.

Infants in Cots

1. Warm the Chlorhexidine lotion.
2. Remove ECG leads.
3. Weigh the infant (if applicable).
4. Bath or minimal cleanse and dry thoroughly.
5. 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.
6. Wipe chlorhexidine lotion from the hands at the completion of the procedure.
7. Replace ECG leads.
8. Check axilla temp in 1 hour if needed.

Related CAHS internal policies, procedures and guidelines
Neonatology Medication Protocol
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chlorhexidine 1% Topical Lotion

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