



## Surgery Preparation

Thank you for choosing to have surgery at the Richland Hospital. Research has shown that in addition to the precautions we take while you are at the hospital, there are some things that you can do before surgery to help prevent infections.



### PATIENT INFORMATION

1. Do not shave the surgical site the day before or the morning of your surgery. Shaving the area can produce very small cuts to the skin that may allow bacteria to enter.
2. **Carefully read the instructions on the CHG (chlorhexidine gluconate) packet before using.**
  - a. **DO NOT USE CHG IF YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO CHLORHEXIDINE GLUCONATE.**
  - b. **DO NOT USE CHG NEAR THE EYES, EARS, NOSE, INTERNAL GENITAL AREAS, OR ANY OTHER MUCOUS MEMBRANES.**
  - c. Bathe or shower the evening before your scheduled surgery. After one hour use 1 CHG cloth to wipe the surgical site for 30 seconds to one minute. Do not rinse. Allow to dry. After one minute use the second CHG cloth to wipe a larger area starting with the surgical site. Allow to dry. Do not rinse. This will help reduce the risk of infection.
  - d. If possible, avoid using lotion, as it may decrease the effectiveness of the CHG.

### SAFETY

The extensive use of chlorhexide gluconate for over 20 years outside the United States has produced no evidence of absorption through intact skin. The potential for producing skin reactions is extremely low. If an adverse reaction does occur, discontinue use immediately and if severe, contact a physician. Keep this out of the reach of the children. In case of accidental ingestion, seek professional assistance or contact a Poison Control Center immediately.

- If you smoke, stop.
- If you are diabetic, monitor your blood sugars and work hard to maintain control of your blood sugars before the surgery as well as during the healing process.