

Surgical Site Infection Prevention

To help prevent a surgical site infection after surgery:

- Do not use a razor on your neck or body for 72 hours before surgery. You may shave your face, but not your neck or lower.
- You will need to shower the night before and the morning of surgery using 4% Chlorhexidine (Hibiclens) liquid soap.
 - You can buy the soap at any local drug store in the first aid section. Cost is \$8-10.
 - Wash with soap starting from neck down including armpits, groin, back and feet. Apply the soap with hands or clean wash cloth. Allow soap to stay on skin for one minute before rinsing off. Your skin may feel slightly sticky.
 - After you shower, wear freshly laundered pajamas and sleep on fresh bed sheets. Do not sleep with pets or let them lay on or with you.
- Do not apply lotions, powders, deodorant, perfume or make-up the day of surgery.
- Wear clean, loose fitting clothing the day you report for surgery.
- You may need to have a test called a MRSA screen (a nasal swab). If this test is positive, the doctor's office will call you with additional instructions about showering and medications.