



Pre-operative Skin Preparation and Cleaning

Preventing a surgical site infection is crucial for a smooth procedure and recovery. You play an important role! The healthcare team at Orthopaedic Hospital of Wisconsin asks that you prepare by taking **two showers** at home using **Hibiclens (Chlorhexidine Gluconate or CHG)** soap before your surgery.

****DO NOT use Hibiclens if you have a known allergy to Chlorhexidine. Please use an antibacterial soap such as Dial, for your pre-surgical showers instead.****

The Evening Two Days Before Your Surgery

1. Place clean sheets on your bed.
2. Gather a clean washcloth, towel, and night clothes.
3. Wash your hair with your normal shampoo; wash your face and genitals with your normal soap.
4. Do not shave any body hair.
5. Rinse hair and skin thoroughly.
6. Turn off the shower, or step away from the running water to prevent rinsing off Hibiclens too soon.
7. Apply Hibiclens (CHG) foam soap to your entire body from the neck down using a wet washcloth. **DO NOT** apply Hibiclens directly to the eyes or genitals.
8. Wash your body gently for 2 minutes, paying close attention to the surgical area (*DO NOT* wash your skin again with your regular soap after the Hibiclens soap is used).
9. After Hibiclens soap has been on your skin for at least 2 minutes, turn the water back on and rinse your body thoroughly.
10. Pat yourself dry with a clean towel and put on clean night clothes.
11. **DO NOT** apply any lotions, oils, powders, deodorant, or hair products after you shower with Hibiclens. Skin and hair products will deactivate and prevent Hibiclens from working.

The Evening Before Your Surgery

- Repeat steps 2-11 using Hibiclens (CHG) foam soap.
 - » Please remember to bring the remainder of the Hibiclens soap (or Dial if allergic to Hibiclens) with you to use for your first shower after surgery.

The Day of Surgery

- You *DO NOT* need to perform a Hibiclens shower on the day of surgery. When you are admitted to the hospital your nurse will apply or instruct you to apply a “hibiclens” (CHG) wipe to your surgical area to provide further protection from bacteria.
- *DO NOT* apply any makeup, lotion, deodorant, powders, perfumes, oils, or hair products.
- Your nurse may swab your nose with an antiseptic solution before your surgery. This is to reduce the amount of bacteria in your nose.

Important Safety Information: For External Use Only

Avoid Contact: Do not let **Hibiclens (CHG)** get into your **eyes, ears, or mouth.**

Emergency Rinse: If contact occurs, immediately and thoroughly rinse the area with **water.**

Slippery Hazard: The soap residue may make the shower or tub floor **slippery.** Use caution.