

Skin Prep Before Surgery

Using CHG wipes

This handout explains how to clean your body with CHG wipes when you are scheduled for surgery.

What are CHG wipes?

Before your surgery, you will use special wipes to clean your body. The wipes contain an *antiseptic* soap called *chlorhexidine gluconate* (CHG). Cleaning your body with CHG wipes before surgery helps prevent infection.

If you have pain or itching after using the soap:

- Stop using the soap.
- Rinse the area well.
- Tell staff about your pain or itching on the morning of your surgery.

If you are allergic to chlorhexidine, use regular soap to shower with.

Night Before Surgery

- Shower or bathe, and shampoo your hair as usual. **Do not shave any part of your body. Make sure that you use a clean towel.**
- Make sure that you put on clean pajamas and use clean sheets on your bed after using these wipes.
- Follow the “Skin Prep Steps” listed below 1 hour after you shower. Make sure your skin is dry before you start.

Skin Prep Steps

- Use scissors to cut off the end seal of 3 packages of CHG wipes. Each package contains 2 wipes.
- Do **not** use CHG wipes on your face, hair, genitals, or areas where you have open sores.
- Use all 6 wipes, 1 wipe for each body area (see drawings on page 2). For example, use:
 - 1 wipe for your right arm and hand
 - 1 wipe for your left arm and hand
 - 1 wipe for your right leg and foot
 - 1 wipe for your left leg and foot
 - 1 wipe for your abdomen and groin
 - 1 wipe for your back and buttocks
- Wipe each area back and forth as if you are painting your body with the wipes. Be thorough.



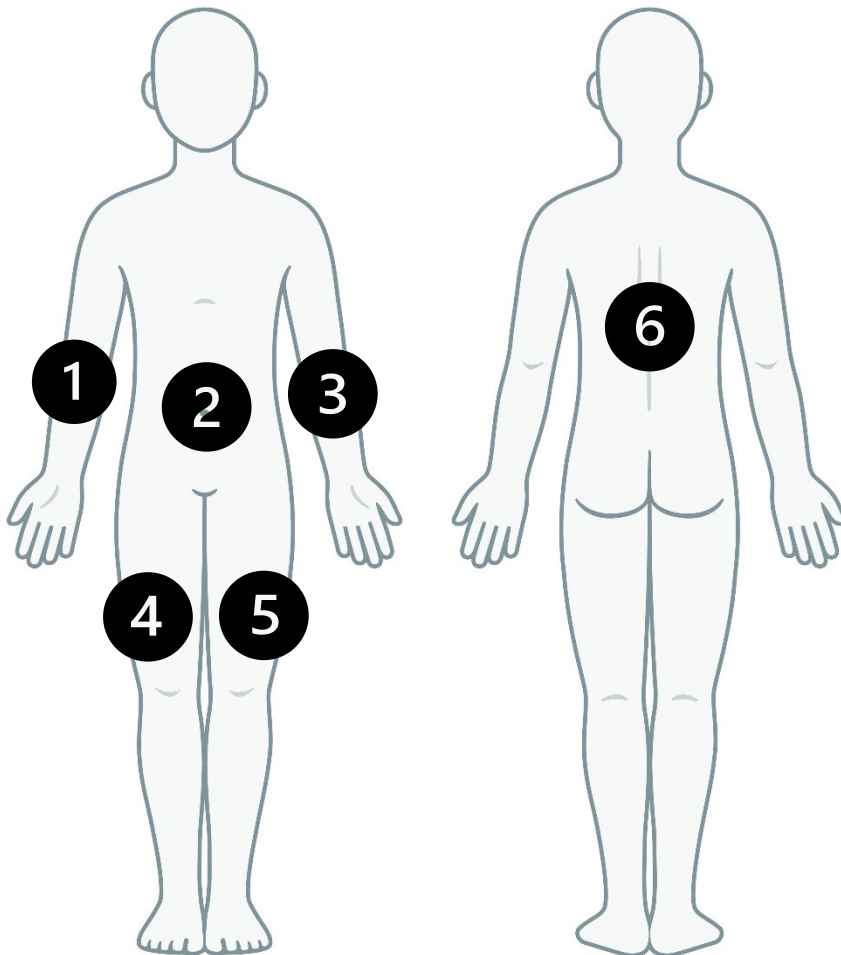
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- Ask for help if you need it to reach certain areas of your body.
- After using the wipes, do **not** rinse your skin or apply any lotions, moisturizers, or makeup.
- Your skin may feel sticky for 1 to 2 minutes until it is fully dry. Let your skin air dry and then put on clean night clothes.
- Throw away the wipes in the trash can. Do not flush the wipes down the toilet.

Morning of Surgery

- Do **not** shower or bathe, or shampoo your hair.
- Open 3 new packages of CHG wipes. Follow the same instructions for “Skin Prep” as you did the night before surgery (see page 1).
- When your skin is dry, put on clean clothes.

Use 1 wipe for each body area as numbered:



Questions?

Your questions are important. Call your doctor or healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.