

Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) cloths



What are CHG cloths?

CHG (chlorhexidine gluconate) is a special kind of skin cleaner. It helps to decrease germs on the skin that can cause infections.

Do not use CHG cloths if your child:

- Has an allergy to CHG.
- Has a skin problem, such as a burn, rash, eczema, open sore or wound.
- Is less than 2 months old.
- Gets radiation therapy for cancer.
- Gets certain chemotherapy (chemo) drugs.

Why does my child need to wash with CHG cloths?

CHG removes more germs from the skin than soap and water. This means that there is less chance of infection with surgery, procedures, central venous access devices (CVADs) and other medical lines.

What should I do before using CHG cloths?

- Wash your hands well with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Remove any jewelry that your child is wearing..
- Keep your child's nails clean and trimmed.

How do I use CHG cloths?

- Use soap and water to wash away any dirt that you see on your child's skin.
- Use CHG cloths to wipe your child's skin from jaw to toes. Use them as advised by your child's care team.
 - Use a different cloth for each large body part to avoid spreading germs from one area of the skin to another. (For example, use cloth 1 for the left arm; then, throw it away. Use cloth 2 for the right arm; then, throw it away. See the table on page 2 for next steps.)
 - Do not wipe or rinse the cleaned skin with water unless a rash, burning, itching or redness happens. CHG needs to stay on the skin to keep killing germs over time.
 - Let the skin air dry – do not use a towel to dry the skin.
 - Your child's skin will feel sticky for about 3 to 5 minutes after using CHG cloths.
- Your child does not need a regular bath before getting a CHG bath unless advised by the care team. They may take one if you would like. If they do, wait at least 15 minutes to allow their skin to cool before their CHG bath.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) cloths, continued

Do not use CHG cloths on your child’s face, ears, eyes, nose, mouth, tip of penis, anus (where stool comes out) or female genitalia (private parts). If the cloths touch these areas, rinse them well with clean, warm water to help prevent irritation.

	Less than 10 kg (21 pounds or less)	10 to 30 kg (22 to 66 pounds)	More than 30 kg (67 pounds or more)	Teens and adults
CHG cloth 1	Jaw to chest abdomen (belly), arms and back	Jaw to chest, arms and abdomen (belly)	Jaw to chest, abdomen (belly) and arms	Jaw to chest
CHG cloth 2	Both legs, buttocks and perineum*	Back and buttocks	Right leg	Both arms
CHG cloth 3	-----	Both legs	Left leg	Abdomen (belly), groin and perineum*
CHG cloth 4	-----	Perineum*	Back	Right leg
CHG cloth 5	-----	-----	Buttocks	Left leg
CHG cloth 6	-----	-----	Perineum*	Back and buttocks

* The perineum is the area between the anus and the private parts.

What should I do after using CHG cloths?

- Do not flush the cloths. Throw them away in the trash.
- Dress your child in clean clothes or a gown.
- Wash the skin with clean, warm water, **only if redness, burning, itching or rash happens.**
- CHG cloths have a moisturizer in them. Do not use other moisturizers, lotion or makeup on your child’s skin. They may attract dirt to the skin and decrease the ability of CHG cleaner to fight germs.
- Only use skin products as advised by the care team.
- Do not rinse, wipe off or dry the skin with another cloth.

How often can I use CHG cloths?

- If your child is having surgery, you may be advised to use them the night before and the morning of surgery to decrease the risk of infection.

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Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) cloths, continued

- If your child has a CVAD, use CHG cloths every day unless advised not to use them.
- You may have to use CHG cloths at other times as advised by the care team.
- Do not use them more than 1 time each day.
- Store CHG cloths at room temperature and away from fire.

When should I call the doctor?

Call the doctor if your child has any of these skin problems that do not go away after rinsing with warm water:

- Redness
- Burning
- Itching
- Irritation or rash

Also call the doctor if you have any questions or concerns about how your child looks or feels.

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.