



Clinical Practice Guideline

Guideline coverage includes NICU KEMH, NICU PMH and NETS WA

Antistaphylococcal Procedure

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#)

To reduce the transient colonization of potentially pathogenic bacteria.

Key Point

- Chlorhexidine emulsion 1% is to be used.
- Use on infants in incubators on day 1 then on alternate days.
- Use on infants in open cots on day 1 then on alternate days until having routine baths.
- Should never be applied to excoriated or ulcerated areas of skin.



Infants in Incubators

1. Warm the Chlorhexidine solution.
2. Increase the incubator temperature by 2°C.
3. Remove ECG leads if condition stable and not < 27 weeks.
4. Weigh the infant (if applicable).
5. If due for wash, use warmed water wipes if in NICU or warm water with cotton wool for babies in level 2 nurseries.
6. Dry thoroughly, especially in body creases.
7. Apply Chlorhexidine solution on a cotton wool **sparingly** to the body and head including the hands, paying particular attention to the cord stump and body creases. Do not apply to face.
8. Wipe chlorhexidine from the hands at completion of the procedure.
9. Replace ECG if removed.
10. Return incubator temp to original level.
11. Check Axilla temp in 1 hour.

Infants in Cots

1. Warm the Chlorhexidine solution.
2. Remove ECG leads.
3. Weigh the infant (if applicable).
4. Bath or minimal cleanse and dry thoroughly.
5. Apply Chlorhexidine solution on a cotton wool **sparingly** to the body and head including the hands, paying particular attention to the cord stump and body creases. Do not apply to face.
6. Wipe chlorhexidine from the hands at the completion of the procedure.

7. Replace ECG leads.
8. Check axilla temp in 1 hour if needed.

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