



Decolonization Do's and Don'ts

DO

- Begin decolonization on admission to remove germs as soon as possible
- Use chlorhexidine (CHG) for all bathing/showering needs for all adult patients on contact precautions
- Use 2% no-rinse CHG cloths for bed baths *or* 4% rinse-off liquid CHG for showers
- Use CHG for regular bathing during patient's entire hospital stay
- Massage CHG onto skin for best effect
- Use CHG on lines, tubes, drains, and over non-gauze dressings
- Use on superficial wounds and rashes to remove germs
- Use nasal iodophor treatment twice a day for a 5-day period

DON'T

- Do NOT get CHG into eyes or ears
- Do NOT wipe off after applying CHG cloths. Let air dry.
- Do NOT apply dressings when skin is still sticky. Wait until fully dry.
- Do NOT flush CHG cloths. Place in trash.
- Do NOT use cotton cloths for showering – it binds CHG and does not release well
- Do NOT use iodophor and/or CHG on patient if patient is allergic

REFER TO NURSING PROTOCOL FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

