

### What is iodophor?

- An over-the counter antiseptic (povidone-iodine) commonly used for cleaning scrapes, cuts, and wounds to prevent infection. It is FDA cleared for use in the nose to prevent infection.

### Why is iodophor being put in my nose?

- Our hospital applies iodophor to all patients on contact precautions to clear germs from the nose, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).
- Because having MRSA in the nose is a known risk factor for later infection, we use iodophor to help protect our patients.

### How safe is iodophor?

- Povidone-iodine has been safely used in healthcare for over 60 years.
- Side effects are uncommon and mild, but may include irritation, runny nose, and sneezing.

### Why is the nasal iodophor swab\* so big?

- The large swab size makes it faster to apply to the entire inner nostril. The swab is soft and squishy, and easily fits into small nostrils.
- Complete coating of the entire inner nose is important for your protection.

### How often does iodophor need to be given?

- All patients on contact precautions will receive nasal iodophor for 5 days, twice daily, on admission. One swab is applied per nostril.

### Will my nose turn brown from the swab?

- No. After the swab is applied, only the very outer edge of the nose may have some brown tinge.
- A tissue can be used to dab the brown area if bothersome.



\* The use of trade names is for identification only and does not imply endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.