

**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**