

**Decolonization Do and Don’t**

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| DO |
| * Begin decolonization on admission to remove germs as soon as possible
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| * Use chlorhexidine (CHG) for all bathing/showering needs for all patients
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| * Use 2% no-rinse CHG cloths for bed baths *or* 4% rinse-off liquid CHG for showers
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| * Use CHG for regular bathing during patient’s entire LTACH stay
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| * Massage CHG onto skin for best effect
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| * Use CHG on lines, tubes, drains, and over non-gauze dressings
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| * Use on superficial wounds and rashes to remove germs
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| * Use nasal iodophor treatment twice a day for a 5-day period every other week
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| DON’T |
| * Do NOT get CHG into eyes or ears
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| * Do NOT wipe off after applying CHG cloths. Let air dry.
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| * Do NOT apply dressings when skin is still sticky. Wait until fully dry.
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| * Do NOT flush CHG cloths. Place in trash.
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| * Do NOT use cotton cloths for showering – it binds CHG and does not release well
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| * Do NOT use iodophor and/or CHG on patient if patient is allergic
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 **REFER TO NURSING PROTOCOL FOR STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS**