

Skin Prep Guidelines

Prepared by the Infection Control Department Shands at UF

To be used for IV site preparation and maintenance, central cannula insertion and maintenance and surgical site prep.

Due to the unavailability of Hibistat® a variety of skin prep practices are being used throughout the hospital. The Infection Control Department has noticed what appears to be an increase of coagulase negative Staph bacteremias. While the quarterly bacteremia rates for units should support this observation, the Infection Control Department would like to be proactive in reducing the potential for this increase. The following guidelines may also be found in the Infection Control Manual PM03-03 Appendix F and PM03-10.

Hospital approved skin preps listed in order of most to least preferred.

1. Chlorhexidine products (2% and /or 4%), Cida Stat, Endure 420, and Hibiclens. These hospital approved handwashing soaps are found in patient care areas. To use, soak sterile gauze with soap **containing chlorhexidine** and then scrub site. Rinse area using alcohol soaked sterile gauze (removes soap residue with a minimum of sudsing). Another rinsing option is a sterile water or sterile saline soaked sterile gauze. Rinsing of the soap will not reduce the antiseptic activity of the chlorhexidine but will reduce the risk of skin irritation.
2. Povidone iodine (iodophor) may be used but must be allowed to completely dry prior to beginning procedure. Povidone iodine should **not** be washed off with alcohol because it's germicidal action depends partially on the sustained release of free iodine. In order to speed the drying of povidone iodine, the manufacturer has added alcohol to some products. This combination of povidone iodine and alcohol can be found in two products available in the hospital. DuraPrep™ is available for large prep applications (O.R., Cath lab, Interventional Radiology). Smaller swabs are available for IV site preps and dressing changes.
3. Alcohol may be used if patient is allergic to the above products and only as a last option. (Studies have shown that alcohol is not as effective as a skin prep in preventing infections when compared to chlorhexidine or iodophors).

Please share this information with your staff and enforce these skin prep guidelines to ensure a standard practice throughout the hospital.