

## **POST-OP SKIN and Incision Care**



- ➤ You are an important part of your recovery.
- ➤ One of the most important factors to your recovery is **Infection**Prevention.
- ➤ Patients who get a surgical site infection have a longer length of stay in the hospital and are six times more likely to get readmitted with complications from the infection.
- ➤ During the discharge phase of care, you will be given 5-bottles of Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG), disposable cloths, and CHG compatible lotion by your discharge nurse.
- You must be diligent with daily hygiene practices. Follow the postop wound care instructions, your daily CHG showers, in addition....
- > .....remember to clean the inside of your nose with Nozin nasal sanitizer every 12 hours until your post-op visit.

## **Incision Care**

- 1. Follow your instructions on your discharge paperwork for incision and dressing care.
- 2. A simple visual check should be all that is needed each day to assess for signs and symptoms of infection (such as drainage, redness, tenderness, or swelling).
- 3. Notify the office immediately for any concerns or signs and symptoms of infection.
- 4. Keep wound clean and dry.
- **5.** If you have steri-strips, they will fall off on their own.
- **6.** Do NOT manipulate (pick or probe) your incision in any way.
- 7. Keep incision out of direct sunlight.

## **Skin Care**

- 1. NO tub bathing for at least four weeks after surgery and cleared by your surgeon.
- 2. You may take a shower if your incision is not draining.
- 3. Do not scrub the incision.
- 4. Important: You must shower with Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) 4% solution daily x 5 days after discharge from hospital. If you are allergic to CHG please request Theraworx® Protect.

  GBMC is sending you home with a sufficient supply for your post-op needs.

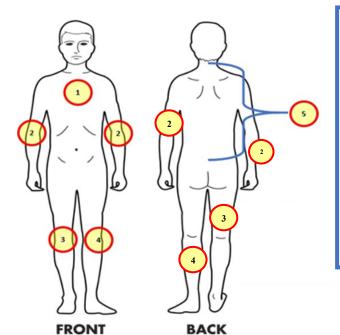
  Use 1-bottle each day for 5 days, 6 cloths with every shower (see diagram).
- 5. Do NOT actively clean your incision unless you are specifically instructed to do so.
- 6. Do NOT use the CHG solution on your face, eyes, ears, mouth, nose, or genitals.
- 7. Dry completely with a fresh towel after every CHG shower.
- 8. Do NOT use ointments, lotions, Vaseline, or moisturizers on your *incision*.
- **9. GBMC CHG Compatible Lotion** is the only moisturizer to use during the 5-days on your skin, **do not use on your incision** this or any other lotions/creams/ointments.





## **CHG 4% Skin Scrub (Daily Skin Care)**

- 1. Do not use Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) if you are allergic to CHG. If you are allergic to CHG please request Theraworx® Protect.
- **2.** When cleaning with CHG, avoid contact with your eyes, ears, mouth, and genitals. If CHG solution should contact these areas, rinse out promptly and thoroughly with water.
  - Use soap and water to clean these areas.
- **3.** Thoroughly wash body with soap, shampoo, and rinse.
- **4.** Turn off shower.
  - **5.** Apply the CHG solution to the disposable cloths, *lather* the body with the CHG according to the diagram below.
- 6. See diagram for areas to clean with CHG 4% solution (cloths 1-5)
- 7. Allow the solution to rest on skin for 2-5 minutes.
- 8. Turn on shower and rinse with water only.
- 9. Dry with a new clean towel after every CHG shower



Lather the body with the CHG using cloths 1-5:

- 1: Neck, chest, and stomach
- 2: Both arms (front and back), arm pits, hands, and fingers
- 3 & 4: Both legs, feet, and toes
- 5: Back of neck, back, and shoulders

\*\*\*DO NOT SCRUB or SOAK your surgical site!
KEEP Surgical DRESSING CLEAN AND DRY\*\*\*