Guidelines and Recommendations
epic 3: IVAD 21

“Consider the use of daily cleansing with chlorhexidine in adult patients with a central venous catheter as a strategy to reduce catheter-related bloodstream infection” CLASS B recommendation


Joint Commission International – Preventing Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections; Chapter 3: CLABSI Prevention Strategies, Techniques, and Technologies

“The US CDC and SHEA/IDSA recommendations suggest that daily bathing of ICU patients older than 2 months of age with a 2% chlorhexidine-impregnated washcloth may be a useful strategy to decrease CLABSI rates “


SHEA Strategies to Prevent Healthcare-Associated Infection in Acute Care Hospitals: 2014 Update

“To gain the maximum antiseptic effect of chlorhexidine, adequate levels of CHG must be achieved and maintained on the skin. Typically, adequate levels are achieved by allowing CHG to dry completely. “

Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology, June 2014, Vol 35, No.6.

Importance of a Medicine License

Granted only when:

- High standards of safety and quality are met during the whole development and manufacture of a medicine
- Clinical outcomes, including multiphase studies about the medicine must be completed:
  - Phase 3 – information gathered from a large number of people (often several thousand) to see how well it works and how safe the medicine (formula) is.
  - Phase 4 - happens after a license has been granted and it involves studies to monitor the medicine on an ongoing basis to see if there are any unexpected side effects or if the medicine causes problems in certain categories of people


RAPID REVIEW PANEL (RRP):

“The panel assesses product for use in healthcare settings and makes recommendations. It does this on the basis of robust scientific evidence and seeks improvements over existing product in effectiveness, innovation and quality.”


“SAGE Products – Antiseptic Body Cleansing Washcloths: This product is a rinse and alcohol free antiseptic body cleaning washcloths with 2% Chlorhexidine gluconate indicated for skin antisepsis as part of a advanced pre-operative cleansing regimen and general skin antisepsis. Based upon the evidence supplied concerning intensive care patients this product has demonstrated a reduction in skin colonization with nosocomial pathogens leading to a reduction in surgical site infection and infection transmissions.”

What the Experts Say

Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG)

Clinical Outcomes

No-Rinse application of SAGE 2% CHG Cloths deposited more residual CHG on the skin and did not have gaps in CHG application to the skin.


When a standard bathing procedure using 2% CHG Cloths on all ICU patients was implemented, VRE contamination of patient’s skin, the environment and health care workers hands was reduced and patient acquisition of VRE decreased.


Universal patient bathing with SAGE 2% CHG Cloths in an ICU reduced BSI by 60 percent.


Universal patient bathing with SAGE 2% CHG Cloths in a large multisite randomized controlled trial found that Central Line associated BSI was reduced by 53% when compared to a no-rinse a pre-packaged bath. All cause bacteraemias (BSI) showed a reduction of 31%. (6 Hospitals, 9 ICUs ; 7,727 Patients)


A universal approach to patient bathing with SAGE 2% CHG Cloth with a topical nasal antibiotic was twice as effective (44% BSI reduction) as a Targeted approach (22% BSI reduction) by treating only those patients that were positive for antibiotic resistant organisms. (43 Hospitals, 74 ICUs, 74,256 Patients)


Universal approach to patient bathing with SAGE 2% CHG Cloth was effective in a 36% Reduction in Bacteraemia (BSI). Furthermore, the treatment was well tolerated by the patient population. The study was conducted in ICU children over 2 months of age in 5 hospitals, 10 ICUs, 4,072 per protocol patients


Basic research and development, validation and recent in use evaluations have shown benefits that should be available to NHS bodies to include as appropriate in their cleaning, hygiene or infection control protocols: The SAGE 2% CHG Cloths showed a reduction in C-Section surgical site infections by 27%.

The Result: Using technology to help fight infection. HCAI Technology Innovation Program Showcase Hospitals report number 9 Sage 2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate Cloth. NHS Department of Health.

Implementation of the SAGE 2% CHG Cloths reduced MRSA transmissions by 74% over a 3 year period. Bacteraemias were reduced by 89% since the SAGE 2% CHG Cloth introduction in 2007.