

## **Pre-operative Bathing Instructions**

Thank you for choosing us for the health care of your child. Before surgery, you play an important role in reducing the risk of infection after your child's surgery. To reduce the risk of infection after surgery, please use chlorhexidine gluconate (Hibiclens) cleanser liquid soap for 3 days before surgery. Every human has bacteria on their skin and this will help to lower the amount of germs on the skin at the time of surgery. You can buy Hibiclens without a prescription at your local pharmacy or online.

Please follow the instructions below:

1. In the shower or tub, wash the body with regular soap and water first. Wash the hair with normal shampoo.
2. Rinse the hair and body well to remove soap and shampoo residue.
3. Apply the Hibiclens soap to your child's entire body from the neck down, using your hands or a wash cloth. *Do not use Hibiclens on the face, genitals or wounds that involve more than superficial layers of skin.* Wash gently and continuously for 3 minutes. You may need to turn off the water to prevent the Hibiclens from washing away as it needs to be in contact with the skin for the entire 3 minutes. Be sure to wash under the arms and in all skin folds, pay special attention to the area of the body that will have surgery.
4. Rinse well and pat dry with a clean, soft towel.
5. Do not apply lotions, powders, oils or additional soaps after washing with the Hibiclens, as these may interact with the Hibiclens.
6. Your child should sleep in freshly washed pajamas and clean bed sheets.



- *Do not use Hibiclens if your child is allergic to chlorhexidine gluconate (Hibiclens) or any other ingredients listed on the bottle.*
- *Do not use on children who are younger than 2 months old.*
- *Do not use Hibiclens near the eyes or ears to avoid permanent injury to those areas.*
- *Do not use Hibiclens on the genitals or wounds that involve more than superficial layers of skin.*

Please contact your Orthopaedic Nurse or Provider if you have any questions regarding these instructions, 510-428-3238.