

## PATIENT INFORMATION

# Chlorhexidine Wipes Patient Bathing on Allerton and Turner Wards

### **Why the special, daily Chlorhexidine wipes bathing?**

This hospital is dedicated to improving medical care for our patients. Common bacteria on the skin and nose can produce infection during high-risk periods such as when central lines are present in veins. The Chlorhexidine wipes have been proven in research studies to protect patients from infection and reduce the risk of having antibiotic-resistant bacteria on the body. The ultimate goal of this effort is to prevent infections.

### **What is chlorhexidine?**

Patients will receive daily bathing with wipes that contain an antiseptic agent called chlorhexidine, which has been used safely in hospitals for over 50 years and is available over the counter at your local chemist and is present in certain mouthwashes.

### **Why is chlorhexidine wipes bathing administered daily?**

Chlorhexidine has been shown to keep bacteria off the skin for up to 24 hours. Patients with central lines in the vein are bathed daily to protect them from infections during this high-risk period.

### **Am I really clean without using soap and water to bathe?**

Chlorhexidine actually works better than standard soap and water for removing bacteria from the skin. It continues to work for up to 24 hours.

### **Who can provide me with more information?**

Please talk to your nurse if you have a question or want additional information.

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.

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