

Skin Preparation

The surgical [skin](#) prep shall be performed using an Infection Prevention and Control Program approved [antiseptic](#) agent.

Antiseptic Solutions

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Whenever possible the recommendation is for use of a [Chlorhexidine](#)-Alcohol prepping solution; however factors to be considered in the selection of a preoperative skin antiseptic agent include, but are not limited to:

- ☐ [Allergy](#).
- ☐ Condition of involved area.
- ☐ Number and/or types of contaminants
- ☐ The characteristics of the skin to be cleansed/disinfected
- ☐ General physical condition of the patient
- ☐ The written review of the manufacturer's information
- ☐ The surgeon's preference
- ☐ The agent should be non-irritating, non-toxic, easily applied

Antiseptic agents shall:

- ☐ have any unused portion of opened bottles, not containing preservative (ie. 4% alcohol) immediately discarded after use
- ☐ be dated if containing preservative (ie. 4% alcohol). Bottles shall be discarded after 30 days or per manufacturer's recommendations
- ☐ not be warmed (unless recommended by manufacturer), as this may alter the chemical properties and equilibrium of the solution causing burns
- ☐ be applied by non-scrubbed personnel
- ☐ be applied in a manner to prevent pooling:
 - o in skin creases
 - o under the patient
 - o around/below a tourniquet

o under an electrosurgical dispersive electrode; or o near EKG electrodes; and

□ not remove [surgical site markings](#) when surgical skin prep is performed.

see <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/eipt/files/EIPT-005-001.pdf>

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