



HEALTH HOLDING

HAFER ALBATUN HEALTH
CLUSTER
MATERNITY AND
CHILDREN HOSPITAL

Department:	Operating Room		
Document:	Internal Policy and Procedure		
Title:	Skin Preparation Before Surgery		
Applies To:	All Surgeon and Operating Room Nurse		
Preparation Date:	January 05, 2025	Index No:	OR-IPP-028
Approval Date:	January 19, 2025	Version :	5
Effective Date:	February 19, 2025	Replacement No.:	OR-DPP-028(4)
Review Date:	February 19, 2028	No. of Pages:	3

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To prevent wound infection.
- 1.2 To remove microorganism on the patient skin.

2. DEFINITIONS:

- 2.1 **Skin Preparation Before Surgery** – thorough mechanical cleaning with an antiseptic agent.

3. POLICY:

- 3.1 Skin cleansing and disinfecting is the responsibility of the surgeon before surgical intervention.
- 3.2 All patients shall have shower or bath the evening before and morning of operation using Chlorhexidine.
- 3.3 The ward staff shall be responsible for pre-operative bathing and shaving.
- 3.4 Skin around operative site shall be free of gross dirt and debris.
- 3.5 History of allergy to a disinfectant shall be obtained by the ward staff and duly endorsed to OR staff.
- 3.6 Observe patients general skin condition for any abnormal skin irritation, infection and abrasion and inform the surgeon.
- 3.7 Cleansing of operative site must be done with Povidone – Iodine solution IP 10% w/v with 75% alcohol and Purified Water.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 Special consideration in specific Anatomic Areas – Eye:
 - 4.1.1 Never shave or remove eyebrows unless the surgeon deems this essential.
 - 4.1.2 Trim eyelashes, if ordered by the surgeon, with fine scissor coated with sterile petroleum jelly to catch the lashes.
 - 4.1.3 Cleanse eyelids and periorbital areas with non-irritating agent.
 - 4.1.4 Flush conjunctival sac with a nontoxic agent, such as sterile normal saline, using a bulb syringe.
- 4.2 Ears, Face or Nose:
 - 4.2.1 Usually it is not possible to define the area with towels.
 - 4.2.2 Protect eyes with a piece of sterile plastic sheeting. If patient is awake, ask that eyes be kept closed during the preparation.
 - 4.2.3 For combined head and neck operation, shaves areas of the head, ears posterior neck and area over the shoulder.
 - 4.2.4 Clean the nostrils and external ear canals with cotton application.
- 4.3 Neck:
 - 4.3.1 One sterile towel is folded under the edge of the blanket and gown, which are turned down almost to the nipple line.
 - 4.3.2 The area includes the neck laterally to the table line and up to the mandible, tops of the shoulders and chest almost to the nipple line.
 - 4.3.3 For combined head and neck operation, include face to the eyes, shaved areas of the head, ears, posterior neck and area over the shoulder.

- 4.4 Lateral Thoraco – Abdominal:
 - 4.4.1 Removed Gown.
 - 4.4.2 Arm is held up during preparation.
 - 4.4.3 Beginning at the site of incision, area may include axilla, chest and abdomen from the neck of crest of the ilium. For operations to axilla and down to pubis, the area also extended beyond the midlines, anteriorly and posteriorly.
- 4.5 Chest and Breast:
 - 4.5.1 Anesthesiologist turns patient's face toward unaffected side.
 - 4.5.2 One towel is folded under blanket edge, just above pubis. Another is placed on table under shoulder and side.
 - 4.5.3 Arm on the affected side is held up by grasping hand and raising shoulder and axilla slightly from the table.
 - 4.5.4 Area includes shoulder, upper arm down to the elbow, axilla and chest wall to the table line and beyond sternum opposite shoulder.
- 4.6 Shoulder:
 - 4.6.1 Anesthesiologist turns patient face toward opposite side.
 - 4.6.2 Towel is placed under shoulder and axilla.
 - 4.6.3 Arm is held up by grasping hand and elevating shoulder slightly from the table.
- 4.7 Vagina:
 - 4.7.1 A sponge forceps must be included on the preparation table for vaginal prep because a portion of prep is done internally. A disposable vaginal prep tray with sponge sticks included, is available.
 - 4.7.2 A moisture proof pad is placed under the buttock extends to kick bucket that receives solutions and discarded sponges.
 - 4.7.3 Towel is folded under edge of blanket above pubis.
 - 4.7.4 Area includes pubis, vulva labia, and perineum and adjacent area, including inner aspects of the upper third thigh, then Vagina is prepped last.
 - 4.7.5 Begin over pubic area, scrubbing downward over vulva and perineum. Discard sponge after going over anus.
 - 4.7.6 Inner aspect of the thigh is scrubbed with separate sponges from labia majora outward.
 - 4.7.7 Vagina and cervix are cleansed with sponges on sponge forceps after external surroundings areas are scrubbed.
 - 4.7.8 The cleansing agent should be applied generously in the vagina because vaginal mucosa has many folds and cervix that are not easily cleansed.
 - 4.7.9 The cleansing agent should be applied generously in the vagina because vaginal mucosa has many folds and crevices that are not easily cleansed.
 - 4.7.10 Catheterized, if indicated.
- 4.8 Recto – Perineal:
 - 4.8.1 Scrub over pubic area, down over Genitalia and perineum, Discard sponge after going to the anus.
 - 4.8.2 Scrub inner aspect of upper third of both thighs with separate sponge.
- 4.9 Hip:
 - 4.9.1 Place towel under the hip and raise the leg on the affected side.
 - 4.9.2 Scrub areas include the entire circumference of leg and extend from foot to upper part of thigh.
- 4.10 Thigh:
 - 4.10.1 Place under pads under the affected side.
 - 4.10.2 Scrub area includes the entire circumference of the thigh and leg to the ankle over hip and buttocks to table line, groin and pubis.
- 4.11 Knee and lower leg:
 - 4.11.1 Place pad under the affected side.
 - 4.11.2 Scrub areas include entire circumference of leg and extend from foot to upper part of thigh.
- 4.12 Ankle and foot:
 - 4.12.1 Scrub area includes foot and entire circumference of lower leg to the knee.
- 4.13 Abdomen:
 - 4.13.1 Scrub from the nipple line up to the middle of the thigh up to table line.
 - 4.13.2 Discard the sponge and scrub the pubis including the inner thigh.

5. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

N/A

6. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 6.1 Nurse
- 6.2 Surgeon



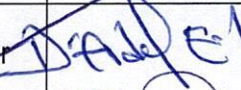


7. APPENDICES:

N/A

8. REFERENCES:

- 8.1 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Ministry of Health, Baish General Hospital, 2018.

9. APPROVALS:

	Name	Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	Ms. Naimah Naif Al Salem	Head Nurse of the Operating Room		January 05, 2022
Reviewed by:	Dr. Abdulghani Ibrahim	Head of the Operating Room Department		January 07, 2025
Reviewed by:	Mr. Sabah Turayhib Al - Harbi	Director of Nursing		January 07, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Mohammed Yaghmour	Head of OBS - Gyne Department		January 08, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Afif Essid	Head of Pediatric Surgery Department		January 08, 2025
Reviewed by:	Dr. Tamer Mohamed Naguib	Medical Director		January 12, 2025
Reviewed by:	Mr. Abdulelah Ayed Al Mutairi	QM&PS Director		January 12, 2025
Approved by:	Mr. Fahad Hezam Al - Shammari	Hospital Director		January 19, 2025