

# Surgical Site Infection Prevention

## At the pre-op appointment:

- We **may** do a test to see if your child has MRSA (we say “mer-sah”).
  - MRSA is an organism that can cause infections after surgery.
  - If your child needs this we will swab your child’s nose and have the swab tested by the lab.
  - If your child does have MRSA, we will make a note of that and we will give your child a drug called Vancomycin before and after surgery to help prevent infection. Vancomycin is an antibiotic used to treat MRSA.
- You **may** be given some special wipes or soap.
  - These wipes have chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) in them. CHG is a topical antiseptic – it cleans the skin and will reduce the chance that your child will get an infection after surgery.
  - The CHG cleans the top two layers of skin. It does not get absorbed into the body. They are safe to use.
  - You need to use these wipes or soap carefully. You will be given instructions on how to use them.
  - Do not open the CHG wipes until you are ready to use them.

PLEASE: Do NOT touch the eyes, ears, mouth or genitals with the CHG wipes.

## The night before surgery:

- Have your child take a shower or a bath.
- If you received the wipes and soap please use them the night before and **not** the morning of your child’s procedure.

## The day of surgery:

- We will take your child’s temperature. In fact, we will watch your child’s temperature closely. A normal temperature can help reduce the chance that your child will have an infection after surgery. Your child will be given a warm blanket or a special warming blanket to help keep them warm.
- We will give you CHG wipes to use in the pre-op area. (Please ask the nurses if you have not received them)