

# Cardiac surgical site bundle

- 1 Daily chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) wipe-downs**

CHG is a cleaning product that kills germs. Starting 24 hours postoperative, patients will receive a CHG bath for 14 days postoperative to reduce bacteria on the skin.
- 2 Caregiver gowning**

Caregivers and medical staff will wear gowns during the first 14 days postoperatively when holding patients ages 2 years or younger to reduce exposure to outside bacteria that could be on clothing.
- 3 Daily linen and gown changes**

Linen and gown changes will occur every 24 hours to reduce infection risk. Gowns used while holding patients 2 years or younger will be changed every 24 hours.
- 4 Dressing removal post-operative day #2**

The surgical dressing will be removed two days after surgery. Staff will cover the incision with a white, non-adhesive, Telfa™ bib/dressing and blue tape.
- 5 Echocardiograms (Echo)**

Echo techs will use sterile probe covers to reduce infection risk to incision.
- 6 Appropriate documentation**

Nurses will take notes of the surgical site during each shift and dressing changes.
- 7 Environmental hygiene**

Staff members will wipe down frequently touched items once every shift to reduce bacterial growth. Parents will be encouraged to wipe down phones to decrease bacteria.
- 8 Postoperative antibiotics**

Antibiotics will be given up to 48 hours after surgery to reduce infection.



Learn more.

