



## Infection Prevention at Heywood Hospital



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## Infection Prevention at Heywood Hospital

Heywood Hospital is committed to working with all surgical patients to prevent infections. One of the risks of having surgery is a wound infection. The following is our plan of care which includes involving you to help prevent infections.

### To prevent an infection before you have surgery:

- Wash with Hibiclens (Chlorhexidine) soap and brush two days prior to surgery, day before surgery and day of surgery. The supplies will be provided by the surgeon's office or at your PAT appointment. If you are allergic to chlorhexidine you will be instructed to use Dial soap.
- Do not shave your body the day before or the day of surgery.

- A nasal swab may be taken by the nurse at your PAT (pre-admission testing) appointment for patients being admitted after surgery or requested by the surgeon. This is to detect any carrier of a MRSA bacteria which potentially could generate an infection after surgery. If positive you will be given an antibiotic ointment prescription to administer prior to surgery.
- Instruct family members and friends to wash their hands before and after visiting you in the hospital.

### To prevent infections during your stay, we:

- Clean your skin with a special cleanser prior to surgery.
- May give you an antibiotic medication.
- Will administer warm IV fluids during surgery and cover you with blankets.
- Monitor your temperature.
- Instruct family members and friends to wash their hands before and after visiting you.
- Teach you about taking care of your wound.
- Reinforce who to contact if you have questions after you go home.

### To prevent infections when you are discharged from the hospital:

- Always clean your hands before and after caring for your wound at home.
- Brush teeth at least twice a day and walk around.
- Call your doctor immediately if you have signs of infection, such as, redness, increased pain at the surgical site, drainage, body aches, or fever.

If you have any questions please call Surgical Day Care at 978-630-6446.