



Southend University  
Hospital  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Patient Information Service

Infection prevention and control team

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## **Protecting you from infection prior to your surgery/procedure**

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Thank you for taking time to read this information leaflet which will tell you what we are doing at Southend University Hospital to fight infection. We take this very seriously and whilst it is generally recognised that not all infections are preventable, we are doing all we can to minimise the risk of you picking up an infection while you are here.

When you are seen in the outpatients department initially by your consultant, before your surgery/procedure you will be risk assessed for the need for a MRSA screen and be provided with an antimicrobial body wash, also known as an antibacterial body wash, which is effective against a broad range of bacteria, it is suitable for use on the whole body including the hair and is suitable for children, all skin types, even skin that is sensitive and susceptible to allergies.

Use the antimicrobial body wash **two days prior** to your admission and on the **day of your procedure** in place of your usual soap for a shower, bath or strip wash (you can use your normal toiletries following the use of the antimicrobial body wash). It is easier to use in a shower, however, if you are unable to have a shower you can have a bath or daily strip wash. **Do not use this lotion as a bubble bath; you must put the lotion directly on to your skin.** You will continue to use the antimicrobial body wash on arrival to hospital and throughout your stay, the nurses will provide you with your own bottle.

On rare occasions the antimicrobial body wash may cause a mild skin rash, in the event of this please inform the infection prevention and control team on the phone number provided at the end of this leaflet.

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## How to use:

**Step 1** Wet skin and/or hair

**Step 2** Apply a small amount of antimicrobial wash undiluted onto a damp wash cloth

**Step 3** Apply antimicrobial wash evenly all over the body and/or hair (recommended skin contact time one minute\*)

**Paying particular attention to:**

- armpits
- groin
- perineum (area of skin around bottom).

**Step 4** Rinse off

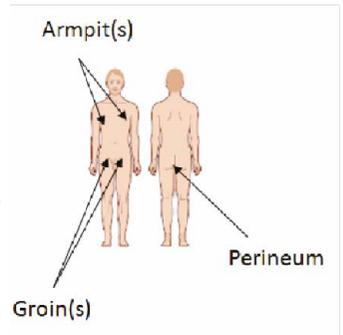
**Step 5** Dry with a clean towel

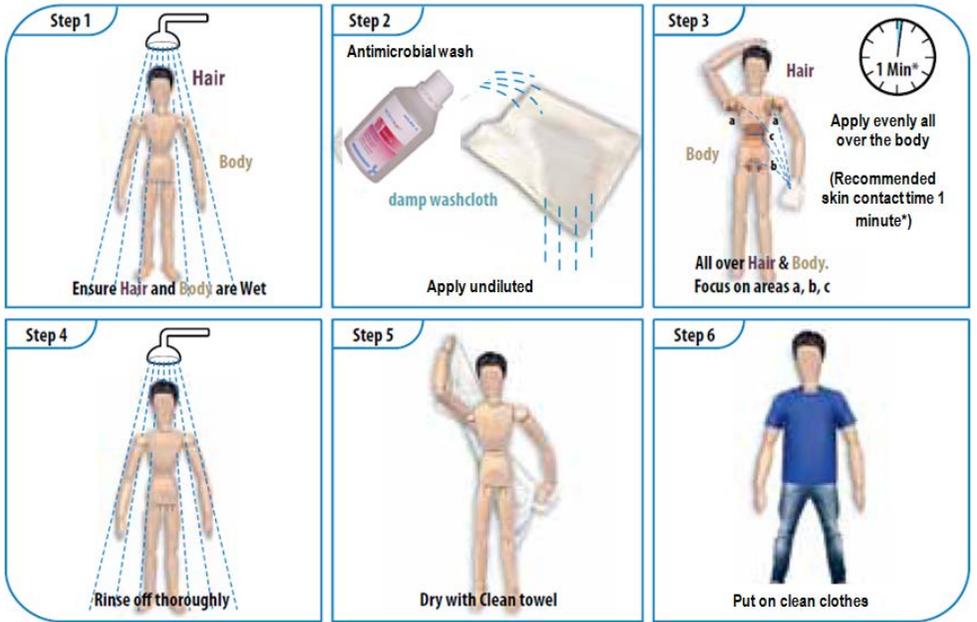
**Step 6** Put on clean clothing.

Ensure that you are the **sole user** of the washcloth and towel.

If you experience any difficulty in the following procedure, please inform a nurse.

If you have any concerns, please contact the Infection, prevention and control team.





# Antibacterial Wash Protocol



**DO NOT DILUTE**

**Apply UNDILUTED**

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# Notes

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# Patient Information Service

If this leaflet does not answer all of your questions, or if you have any other concerns please contact the infection prevention and control nurses on: **01702 435555 ext 6639, 6919 or 6986.**

[www.southend.nhs.uk](http://www.southend.nhs.uk)

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For a translated, large print or audio tape version of this document please contact:

**Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)**

**Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust**

**Prittlewell Chase**

**Westcliff-on-Sea**

**Essex, SS0 0RY**

**Telephone: 01702 385333**

**Fax: 01702 508530**

**Email: [pals@southend.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@southend.nhs.uk)**