



Patient Information Service

Infection prevention and control team

**Protecting you
from infection**

You may have read in the newspapers and seen on television how some patients contract infections whilst being treated for other problems both in and out of hospital. At Southend University Hospital we take this problem 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.

For some time we have advised all patients scheduled to come into hospital for an operation to wash with a product called 'Octenisan' before they are admitted. This is an antibacterial skin wash/shampoo that destroys many bacteria that live on the skin, thus helping reduce the risk of acquiring bacteria in a surgical wound. This is to be used two days prior to your procedure and on the day of your procedure.

The same product is provided for other patients who, although not having an operation, will still benefit from reducing the number of bacteria on their skin. This includes the well known MRSA.

On your arrival to the ward the nurses will provide you with your own bottle of the skin wash called 'Octenisan'. Please note it is for external use only.

The Octenisan should be applied directly onto the skin (not diluted) every day if possible. You should wash thoroughly with the undiluted Octenisan wash leaving it on the skin for two minutes before washing off with warm water. It is important that you pay special attention to the areas under your arms and in the groin before drying yourself thoroughly.

On rare occasions the Octenisan may cause a mild skin rash.
In the event of this please inform your nurse.

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

Thank you for taking time to read this information. Working
together we aim to reduce infections at Southend University
Hospital.

Infection control telephone advice
01702 435555 ext 6639, 6638, 6919 or 6986.

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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, 6638, 6919 or 6986.**

www.southend.nhs.uk

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

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