

What Can Patients and Families Do to Prevent Infections from Surgery?

Be part of our care team:

Preventing infections from surgery is an important responsibility for you, your health care team, and your family.

What happens if I get an infection from surgery?

- You may have to stay in the hospital for a longer time. Some infections require you to stay in the hospital for an additional 6 weeks.
- You may have to experience additional invasive or painful treatments and procedures. This may include the placement of new IV catheters, frequent blood draws, wound care or surgery.
- You may become very ill and require blood pressure and breathing support. A severe infection can cause organ damage or may possibly lead to death.
- The infection may spread to other vulnerable patients. Some patients are more likely to get infections, and others do not respond to infection treatment as well as others.

Take action and avoid infections from surgery using the pre- and postoperative checklist below:

Before surgery



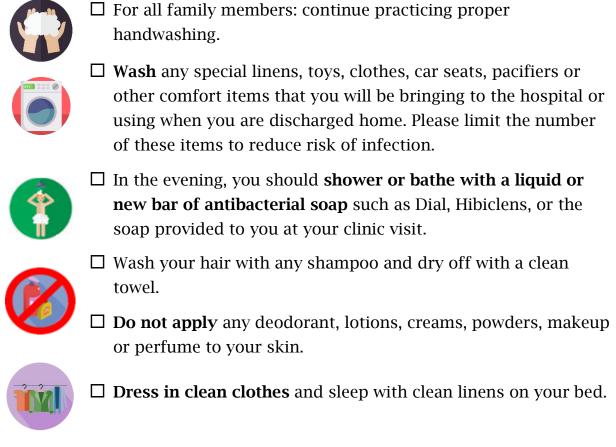
For all family members: begin practicing proper handwashing
If you need more instruction on proper handwashing
techniques, contact someone from your health care team.



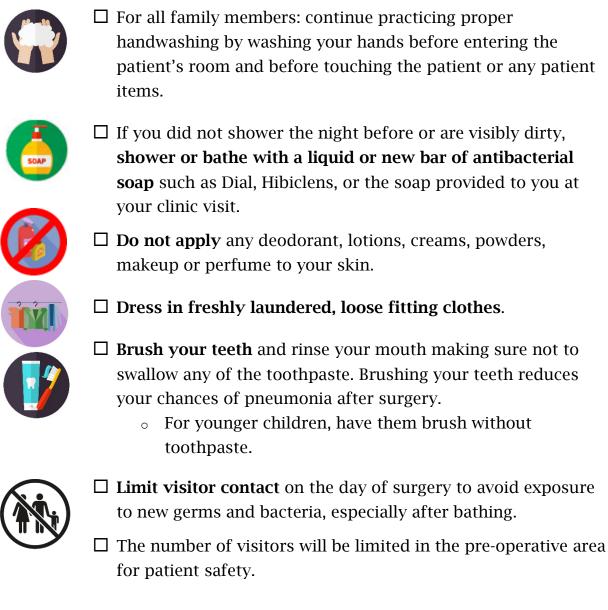
□ **Do not shave or use hair removal products** around the surgical site for at least 3 days before surgery. Shaving and hair removal products can irritate the skin and could lead to infection.

 Keep your and your child's nails clean, trimmed and free of polish or artificial nail products. These may carry germs and increase infection risk. Packing a pair of clean socks or mittens to cover hands may be helpful for infants.
 □ Quit smoking. Patients who smoke get more infections. Talk to your doctor about how you can quit before your surgery. ○ For all family members: limit exposing the patient to second-hand smoke. If clothes smell of smoke, change or make sure to cover clothes with a blanket before seeing the patient. Second hand smoke exposure causes many health problems or infections in infants and children.
\square Begin decolonization as instructed by your care team.

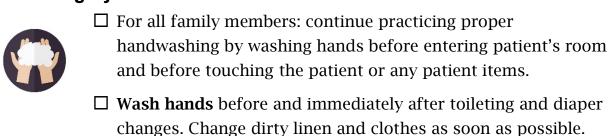
Day before surgery



Day of surgery



After surgery





Ask your care team about other specific instructions related to your surgery.

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