





CHG

## Nasal Decolonization

Infections

- Decolonization is the reduction of microbial burden, prior to surgery, to reduce the likelihood of transmission and infection.
- Nasal decolonization with mupirocin or iodophor targets the nares, one of the most common reservoirs of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA).
- It is vital to educate patients and families so they know how to properly decolonize at home.

## Antimicrobial Prophylaxis

- Antimicrobial prophylaxis is a crucial consideration for the prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs).
- Effective prophylaxis relies on selecting the right antimicrobial agent, in the right dose, at the right time.
- An important consideration is the correct use of **intravenous vancomycin** for patients confirmed to be colonized with MRSA or with significant risk factors for MRSA.

## **Preoperative Skin Antisepsis**

- Preoperative bathing and antisepsis with chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) reduces microbial burden on skin.
- CHG skin antisepsis should preferably be performed morning and evening for 5 days prior to and the morning of surgical procedure.
- This requires a multidisciplinary approach, involving staff from all phases across the perioperative continuum of care.

## Evidence-Based Infection Prevention

- Evidence-based infection prevention best practices should be followed to prevent SSIs.
- Includes best practices in the following topics:
  - Hand hygiene
  - Surgical scrub
  - Hair removal
  - Glycemic control
  - Normothermia
  - Operating room traffic