



## Skin preparation guideline for specific neonatal procedures

- This guide is to be used in conjunction with the Hand hygiene, Aseptic Non-Touch Technique as well as the relevant neonatal procedure guidelines on the Trustnet.
- Any member of staff that undertakes or assists in the listed procedures is expected to be familiar with, and adhere to this guideline.

### Use of Chloraprep® (2% Chlorhexidine in 70% isopropyl alcohol) 1.5ml applicator

- This applies to all neonates with intact skin from 28 weeks gestation and above 1000gms.
- Check that applicator packet is sealed, intact and in date.
- Remove the applicator from the packet and hold it sponge side down, keeping it sterile prior to application on the patient's skin.
- Activate applicator by firmly squeezing the wings
- Gently press the sponge part of the applicator onto the patient's skin, applying the solution sparingly in a dabbing motion for **20-30 seconds**.
- Allow at least **30 seconds** for the area to air dry completely.
- Use the red 30 second sand-timer as a visual prompt.

**Use of SEPP (0.67ml)** –Hold foam tip facing downward and squeeze barrel gently, **once** only to break the ampoule. Do not repeatedly squeeze the barrel. Press foam tip against the treatment area and use a gentle back and forth motion for **20-30 seconds**. Allow **30 seconds** to air dry completely, using red 30 second sand-timer as a visual prompt.



Chloraprep®  
1.5ml applicator



SEPP  
0.67ml



0.05% Chlorhexidine  
gluconate solution

**Warning:** Chloraprep® can cause skin erythema, irritation and burns. This risk is higher in babies less than 32 weeks or less than 1500g. **DO NOT use the 1.5ml applicator on babies below 27 weeks gestation, or those who weigh less than 1000g or on damaged or broken skin.** To minimise pooling and prolonged contact, use sparingly and let the solution dry. Sterile water can be used to wash off excess solution away from procedure area. Stop application at first sign of skin reaction & wash off solution.



Procedure	Type of Skin Preparation
Heel Prick Blood Sampling	<p>*Alcohol wipe (70% Isopropyl alcohol) Allow to dry (<b>30 seconds</b>) Apply pressure with sterile gauze swab after stab</p> <p><b>*For heel spot test, use clean water. Do not use alcohol wipes.</b></p> 
Venepuncture	<p>SEPP (0.67mls solution)</p> 
Blood Culture	
IV Cannulation	
Peripheral Arterial Line	
Suprapubic Aspiration of Urine	<p>Chloraprep® 1.5mls applicator*</p> <p><b>(For babies below 27 weeks or less than 1000gms, and babies with damaged or broken skin, use 0.05% chlorhexidine for skin cleansing and use SEPP at the point of device entry or insertion only)</b></p> <p>To minimise pooling and prolonged contact, use sparingly and let the solution dry. Sterile water can be used to wash off excess solution away from procedure area. Stop application at first sign of skin reaction &amp; wash off solution.</p>   
Needle Thoracocentesis	
Lumbar Puncture	
Umbilical Arterial or Venous Catheter	
Insertion of Longline	
Chest Drain Insertion	