

Clinical Guideline

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics



This guideline serves as a guide and does not replace clinical judgment.

Purpose

To ensure that optimal procedures are followed to reduce the risk of surgical site infections in patients undergoing invasive procedures. Surgical site infection (SSI) is a potential complication of surgery that can lead to significant morbidity and mortality for patients. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Children's Hospitals' Solution for Patient Safety (SPS) have published evidence-based SSI prevention bundles that provide recommendation for practice.

Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR) practice aligns with these prevention bundles, the elements of which are summarized in the following table:

CHoR SSI Bundle

SSI Prevention Bundle Element		Evidence
1	Alcohol-containing skin preparation	*1A
2	Prophylactic antibiotic timing	*1B/**Scenario 1

*CDC Modified Recommendation Category

1A- A strong recommendation supported by high to moderate quality evidence suggesting net clinical benefits or harms.

1B- A strong recommendation supported by low quality evidence suggesting net clinical benefits or harms, or an accepted practice (i.e., aseptic technique) supported by low to very low-quality evidence.

**SPS Evidence

Scenario 1: Reliably implementing element is associated with statistically significant improvement.

It is the practice of CHoR to implement actions that reduce the risk of SSIs, referred to as a Surgical Site Infection Bundle (SSI Bundle).

1. Specific action techniques used are directed at reducing opportunities for microbial contamination of the patient's tissues and/or sterile instrumentation based on evidence-based practice.
2. All approved anti-microbial agents are used according to the manufacturer's instructions for use. Surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis will be used as a critical adjunctive technique.
3. Adherence to principles of aseptic technique.

Clinical Guideline

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics

Procedure

1. Alcohol-containing Skin Preparation

- A. Alcohol-containing skin preparation should be used unless contraindications exist (See *Appendix A*).
 - I. Follow manufacturer's instruction for use for application. Use drip towels to prevent pooling of the solution.
 - II. Follow manufacturer's instructions for use and dry time.
 - III. Upon completion of the skin preparation, all prepping materials are disposed of in the trash receptacle and placed 6 feet or greater from the surgical field.
- B. If alcohol-containing skin preparation cannot be used due to patient allergy and/or contraindication(s) (i.e., location of surgical procedure, emergent case), confirm the surgical prep solution with the surgeon and follow manufacturer's instruction for use for application and dry time.

2. Prophylactic Antibiotic Timing

- A. Perioperative intravenous antibiotics will be administered to all patients undergoing selected invasive procedures, within 60 minutes before the incision is made and re-dosed appropriately.
(See *Appendix B & C* for surgical prophylaxis recommendations and dosing in pediatric patients)
 - I. Exceptions:
 - i. Vancomycin and Fluoroquinolones, which is given 60-120 minutes prior to incision.
 - ii. Special consideration for procedures involving a tourniquet: the prophylactic antibiotic should be administered prior to tourniquet inflation opposed to incision unless the patient's condition warrants the tourniquet to go up before antibiotic administration.
- B. It is the responsibility of the Attending Operative Physician and the Attending Anesthesiologist to ensure appropriately timed intravenous prophylactic antibiotics.
- C. If the patient is allergic to the recommended agent, the Anesthesia provider will consult the Attending Operative Physician.
- D. Antibiotics should be re-administered every 2 half-lives for the duration of the procedure (See *Appendix C*).
- E. Post-operative prophylactic antibiotics must be stopped within 24 hours, based on the surgery end time.

Definitions







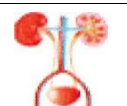
- ❖ **Surgical Site Infection (SSI)** – Infection that can develop within 30 days (in some cases up to 90 days) after an operation, at the site where the tissue is manipulated during the procedure, per NSQIP, NHSN and/or SPS criteria.
- ❖ **Aseptic Technique** – Method used in surgical procedures to prevent contamination of the wound and operative site with microorganisms.
- ❖ **CHG** – Chlorhexidine gluconate
- ❖ **Prep** – A process to reduce microorganisms of the skin at the surgical site.
- ❖ **Scrub** – The initial portion of the surgical prep which utilizes a soapy anti-microbial solution to prepare the skin for surgery.
- ❖ **Paint or Solution** – The final stage of the prep utilizing an anti-microbial agent which is allowed to dry on the skin for continued anti-microbial action.

Clinical Guideline

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics

APPENDIX A – Surgical Skin Prep Chart

Surgical Specialty	Anatomic Location	Suggested Skin Prep	Alternate Skin Prep	Notes
 GENERAL SURGERY	TORSO	ChloraPrep		Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG Internal genitalia
	ABDOMEN +/- GROIN	ChloraPrep		
	PERINEUM/GENITALIA +/- GROIN	ChloraPrep		
	EXTREMITIES	ChloraPrep		
 NEUROSURGERY*	SCALP	ChloraPrep	Chlorohexidine wash (4% chlorohexidine) Alcohol Betadine scrub and paint ChloraPrep	Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG
	FACE	Betadine scrub & paint		
	SPINE	ChloraPrep		
	TORSO	ChloraPrep		
	ABDOMEN +/- GROIN	ChloraPrep		
 CARDIOTHORACIC	CHEST	ChloraPrep	Betadine scrub and paint Alcohol ChloraPrep	Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG
	ABDOMEN	ChloraPrep		
 ENT & EYES	SCALP	ChloraPrep	Discuss with surgeon	Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG
	FACE	Betadine scrub & paint		
	EYES	Betadine		
	EARS	Betadine scrub & paint		
	NECK	ChloraPrep		
 ORTHOPEDICS	SPINE	ChloraPrep		Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG Internal genitalia
	PERINEUM/GENITALIA +/- GROIN	ChloraPrep		
	EXTREMITIES	ChloraPrep		
 PLASTIC SURGERY	SCALP/CRANIOFACIAL	Betadine scrub & paint	Skin graft case; confirm prep with surgeon	Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG Near eyes, ears, mouth
	SCALP NON-CF/SOFT TISSUES	ChloraPrep		
	FACE	Betadine		
	NECK	ChloraPrep		
	BREAST	PurPrep		
	TORSO	ChloraPrep		
	ABDOMEN +/- GROIN	ChloraPrep		
	EXTREMITIES	ChloraPrep		
 UROLOGY	ABDOMEN +/- GROIN	ChloraPrep		Use Betadine scrub & paint: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <2 months of age & allergy to CHG Internal genitalia
	PERINEUM/GENITALIA +/- GROIN	Betadine		

Evidence Based Practice – Alcohol-containing preparation should be used unless contraindications exists.

ChloraPrep – Use caution on children less than 2 months of age (consider using clear ChloraPrep). Do not use on open wound(s).

*Neurosurgery – Separate preps are used on the head and the body

Clinical Guideline

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics

APPENDIX B: Recommended Antibiotic Prophylaxis Based on Body Site and Procedure

Surgery	Antibiotic	Beta-lactam Allergy
Cardiac, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic, Thoracic, Vascular		
Cardiac, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic, Thoracic, Vascular	Cefazolin Posterior Spinal Fusion: Cefazolin PLUS Gentamicin^{^^} ^{^^} Note different gentamicin dosing	Clindamycin OR Vancomycin Posterior Spinal Fusion: See above PLUS Gentamicin ^{^^} ^{^^} Note different gentamicin dosing
Endocarditis Prophylaxis*	Oral: Amoxicillin IV: Cefazolin	Oral: Clindamycin ^{\$\$} IV: Clindamycin ^{\$\$} ^{\$\$} Note different clindamycin dosing
Gastrointestinal/Biliary		
Esophageal, NON-obstructed gastroduodenal and jejunal, Biliary	Cefazolin	Clindamycin PLUS Gentamicin
Obstructed gastroduodenal and jejunal	Cefazolin PLUS Metronidazole	Metronidazole PLUS Gentamicin
Ileal and Colorectal	Alternative Cefoxitin	Clindamycin PLUS Gentamicin
Appendectomy for Uncomplicated Appendicitis	Cefazolin +/- Metronidazole ^a +/- Ceftriaxone ^b Alternative Cefoxitin ^a If 30 mg/kg/dose not given in the past 24 hours or 10 mg/kg/dose not given in the past 8 hours ^b If 50 mg/kg/dose not given in the past 24 hours	Clindamycin PLUS Gentamicin
Head and Neck		
Clean	None	None
Clean with placement of prosthesis (excludes tympanostomy tubes)	Cefazolin	Clindamycin
Clean-contaminated (entry into aerodigestive tract OR major intraoral surgery)	Ampicillin-sulbactam	Clindamycin
Urologic		
Clean WITHOUT entry into urinary tract (hernia repair, orchiopexy, circumcision)	None Risk factors (complex medical history, heart disease, ect): Cefazolin	Clindamycin OR Vancomycin
Clean WITH entry into urinary tract (hypospadias repair, partial nephrectomy, ureteral re-implant, pyeloplasty)	Cefazolin	Clindamycin PLUS Gentamicin
Procedure with entry into intestine (MACE, Monti, augmentation cystoplasty)	Cefazolin PLUS Metronidazole	Metronidazole PLUS Gentamicin
Lower tract instrumentation with risk factor for infection	Cefazolin	Gentamicin

Clinical Guideline

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics

APPENDIX C: Recommended Antibiotic Prophylaxis Dosing

Age/Weight	Dosing	Intra-operative re-dosing interval for prolonged procedures or major blood loss (>20 mL/kg) ^c
Amoxicillin		
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	50 mg/kg/dose (max = 2000 mg)	No re-dose
Ampicillin-Sulbactam		
Neonates ≤ 1 month	50 mg/kg/dose of ampicillin component (max = 2000 mg)	12 hours
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	50 mg/kg/dose of ampicillin component (max = 2000 mg)	2 hours
Cefazolin		
Neonates ≤7 days OR ≤2 kg	25 mg/kg/dose	12 hours
Neonates >7 days AND >2 kg	25 mg/kg/dose	8 hours
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	30 mg/kg/dose (max = 2g; if >120kg: 3g)	4 hours
Cefoxitin		
Neonates ≤ 1 month	30 mg/kg/dose (max = 2000 mg)	4 hours
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	40 mg/kg/dose (max = 2000 mg)	2 hours
Ceftriaxone		
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	50 mg/kg/dose (max = 2000 mg)	12 hours
Ciprofloxacin		
Children ≤ 40 kg	10 mg/kg/dose (max = 400 mg)	8 hours
Children > 40 kg	400 mg	8 hours
Clindamycin		
Neonates ≤7 days OR ≤2 kg	7.5 mg/kg/dose	12 hours
Neonates >7 days AND >2 kg	7.5 mg/kg/dose	6 hours
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	10 mg/kg/dose (max= 900mg)	6 hours
\$\$Endocarditis Prophylaxis Only\$\$		
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	ORAL/IV: 20 mg/kg/dose (max 600 mg)	No re-dose

^c All intervals provided are based on normal renal function for age and weight – intervals should be adjusted for renal impairment. Contact CHoR pharmacy at 804-628-9566 for guidance.

Clinical Guideline

Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics

APPENDIX C: Recommended Antibiotic Prophylaxis Dosing

Age/Weight	Dosing	Intra-operative re-dosing interval for prolonged procedures or major blood loss (>20 mL/kg) ^c
Gentamicin		
Neonates PMA ≤ 29 weeks and ≤ 7 days	5 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Neonates PMA 30-34 weeks and ≤ 7 days	4.5 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Neonates, all other	4 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Infants > 1 month, children, and adolescents	2.5 mg/kg/dose	8 hours
^^Posterior Spinal Fusion ONLY^^		
Infants and children	7 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Adolescents	5 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Metronidazole		
Neonates	15 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Infants >1 month, children, adolescents and adults	15 mg/kg/dose (max = 500mg)	8 hours
Piperacillin-Tazobactam		
Neonates ≤7 days OR ≤2 kg	100 mg/kg/dose of piperacillin component	12 hours
Neonates >7 days AND >2 kg	100 mg/kg/dose of piperacillin component	8 hours
Infants >28 days to 9 months	80 mg/kg/dose of piperacillin component	2 hours
Infants >9 months, children, adolescents	100 mg/kg/dose of piperacillin component (max = 3000 mg)	2 hours
Vancomycin		
Neonates ≤7 days OR ≤2 kg	15 mg/kg/dose	No re-dose
Neonates >7 days AND >2 kg	15 mg/kg/dose	12 hours
Infants > 1 month and children ≤ 50 kg	15 mg/kg/dose (max = 1g)	12 hours
Children > 50 kg	15 mg/kg/dose (max = 1g)	12 hours

^c All intervals provided are based on normal renal function for age and weight – intervals should be adjusted for renal impairment. Contact CHoR pharmacy at 804-628-9566 for guidance.

Executive Summary

Pediatric Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle

CHoR – Pediatrics

Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU: Surgical Site Infection Reduction Team

Pediatric Surgery Owner: Patricia Lange, MD

Pediatric Infection Prevention Owner: Connie Atkinson, MSN, RN, CIC

Pediatric Pharmacy: Drew Noda, PharmD, BCPPS

Children's Surgery Program: Tina Kirshenbaum, MS, RN, CPN, Jennifer Flohre, BSN, RN, CCRN

Approved (January 2025)

Pediatric Surgery Division Chief:

Jeffery Haynes, MD, FACS, FAAP

CHoR Quality Council:

Matt Schefft, DO, MSHA

Elizabeth Peterson, RN, MPH, CPHQ

CHoR Clinical Guidelines Committee:

Jonathan Silverman, MD, MPH

Ashlie Tseng, MD, MEd

References

1. Bratzler DW, Dellinger EP, Olsen KM, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for antimicrobial prophylaxis in surgery. *Am J Health-Syst Pharm.* 2013; 70:195-283.
2. Wilson W, Taubert KA, Gewitz M, et al. Prevention of Infective Endocarditis. Guidelines From the American Heart Association. A Guideline From the American Heart Association Rheumatic Fever, Endocarditis, and Kawasaki Disease Committee, Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young, and the Council on Clinical Cardiology, Council on Cardiovascular Surgery and Anesthesia, and the Quality of Care and Outcomes Research Interdisciplinary Working Group. *Circulation* 2007; 116:1736.
3. Wood, A. (2021). AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. AORN.
4. ASHP. (2013). Clinical Practice Guidelines for Antimicrobial Prophylaxis in Surgery. <https://www.ashp.org/-/media/assets/policy-guidelines/docs/therapeutic-guidelines/therapeuticguidelines-antimicrobial-prophylaxis-surgery.ashx>.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guideline for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infection (2017). <https://iamanetwork.com/journals/iamasurgery/fullarticle/2623725>.
6. Guideline for Prevention of Surgical Site Infection, 1999; National Center for Infectious Diseases, Hospital Infections Program, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Public Health Service, US Department of Health and Human Services; Volume 20, No. 4, Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. Association of Operating Room Nurses; Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices, 201 1 Edition; RP Perioperative Patient Skin Antisepsis; pages 361-379.
7. SPS Prevention Bundle SSI online resource (2020) <http://www.solutionsforpatientsafety.org/wp-content/uploads/SPS-PreventionBundles.pdf> retrieved October 2017.
8. Bashaw, M. A., & Keister, K. J. (2019). Perioperative strategies for surgical site infection prevention. *AORN Journal*, 109, 69-75.
9. Cannon, M., Hersey, D., Harrison, S., Joy, B., Naguib, A, Galantowicz, M., & Simsin, J. (2016). Improving surveillance and prevention of surgical site infection in pediatric cardiac surgery. *American Journal of Critical Care*, 25, e30-37.
10. Schriefer, J., Sanders, J., Michels, J., Wolcott, K, Ruddy, C., & Hanson, J. (2017). Implementation of a pediatric orthopaedic bundle to reduce surgical site infections. *National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses*, 36, 49-59.

Citation

Title: Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle Guideline

Authors:

Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU

Patricia Lange, MD, Heather Albert, MSN, RN, CIC, Drew Noda, PharmD, BCPPS Tina Kirshenbaum, MS, RN, CPN, Jennifer Flohre, BSN, RN, CCRN, Lisa Bebeko, MPT, MSHA

Date: January 2026

Retrieval website: <https://www.chrichmond.org/health-care-professionals/chor-clinical-guidelines>

Example: Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU, Lange P, Albert H, Noda D, Kirshenbaum T, Flohre J, Bebeko L. Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Bundle. Available from: <https://www.chrichmond.org/health-care-professionals/chor-clinical-guidelines>.