**Patient Assessment**

Does the patient have any allergies or sensitivities?
- CHG allergy or sensitivity
  - Use lodophor-based product
- Iodine sensitivity
  - Use CHG-based product
- No known allergy or sensitivity
  - Use either lodophor or CHG-based product

Is the patient less than 2 months old?
- The preferred choice is a product that is specified by the manufacturer for patients under two months of age. When products contain a warning or caution regarding use in infants less than 2 months of age, the perioperative team should collaboratively evaluate risks and benefits of using the products and alternatives such as soaps or saline. The goal is to select a safe and effective surgical skin prep to help reduce bacteria that can cause surgical site infection.
- Use either lodophor or CHG-based product

**Surgical Site Assessment**

Intact Skin?
- Use either lodophor or CHG-based product
- If open wound or trauma, no alcohol-based products may be used. See manufacturer’s instructions for use.

Eyes
- Do not use alcohol-based products
- Do not use CHG as it can cause corneal damage
- Use Ophthalmic Iodine-based product as specified by manufacturer’s instructions for eye site procedures

Ears
- Do not use alcohol-based products if contraindicated per manufacturer’s instruction for use
- Do not use CHG as it can cause deafness if in contact with the inner ear
- Use aqueous-based lodophor product

Mucous Membrane
- Do not use alcohol-based products
- CHG should be used with caution. Some CHG products prohibit use in genital area. See manufacturer’s instructions for use.
- Use aqueous-based lodophor product

**Surgical Factors**

Large amount of fluids?
- Use a water insoluble prep

Use of Incise drape?
- Not a factor for prep selection

Large prep area?
- Coverage Area – Efficacy may also be linked to coverage area. Some preps cover more area per applicator than others. Check manufacturer’s coverage information. Using a prep beyond coverage specifications may affect efficacy. This may require more than one applicator to complete the patient prep.

**Safety Factors**

Will the patient’s airway be associated in the surgery?
- Consider the flammability risk due to increased oxygen levels (e.g., laser use, cautery) and take necessary precautions.

Is a flammable prep used?
- Additional precautions should be taken to minimize the risk of surgical fire. Follow manufacturer’s instructions for use and AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice.

*This guide contains recommendations based on AORN 2018 Guidelines for Perioperative Practice; it is not meant to be all-inclusive of considerations.


Always follow manufacturer’s instructions for use.