

Press Release

Revised national guidelines recommend chlorhexidine gel impregnated dressings

20th January 2016

Epic3 national guidelines on intravascular care have been revised as part of a strategy to reduce the risk of catheter-related blood stream infections (CRBSIs).

The epic3 revision, for catheter and catheter site care (IVAD20), now recommends 2 per cent CHG impregnated gel dressings should be considered, in addition to 2 per cent CHG impregnated sponge dressings, for antimicrobial protection of insertion sites in catheterised adult patients.¹

The epic guidelines provide evidence-based best practice for preventing healthcare-associated infections. They are regularly reviewed to maintain validity and updated in line with the latest, most robust clinical evidence.

The revision to the IVAD20 guideline is based on current evidence supporting the CHG gel dressing's superior performance when compared with standard semi-permeable transparent I.V. dressings.

A randomised controlled trial reported a 60 per cent lower CRBSI rate using 2 per cent CHG impregnated gel dressings (Tegaderm CHG I.V. securement dressing) compared with standard semi-permeable I.V. dressings (1879 patients). Decreases were also noted in rates of catheter colonisation and skin colonisation.²

The revision aligns epic3 with National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidance published in July 2015. NICE recommends that the gel based Tegaderm CHG I.V. dressing should be considered for central venous and arterial catheter insertion sites in critically ill adults.³

NICE concluded that rapid and sustained antimicrobial activity reduced the risk and associated cost of CRBSIs, making Tegaderm CHG dressing potentially more cost-effective compared to standard dressings.³ If used in standard practice, it could save the NHS in England between £4.2 million and £10.8 million each year.*

In addition, NICE reported that the dressing's unique design, with integral CHG gel pad, offers a distinct advantage over CHG impregnated sponge dressings³ as it enables continuous visibility of the insertion site, assisting safe maintenance of the intravascular catheter.

Incorporating these revised national guidelines into local protocols will support hospitals in their aims to minimise CRBSI risk to patients and meet stringent infection control and cost reduction targets.

For more information about Tegaderm CHG I.V. securement dressings from science-based technology company, 3M, visit www.3M.co.uk/epic3CHG

*Estimated cost saving per patient of £73 based on a baseline CRBSI rate of 1.48 per 1000 catheter days, benefiting population of 80,000 to 260,000.⁴

END

References:

1. Loveday HP, Wilson JA, Prieto J, Wilcox M, epic3: revised recommendation for intravenous catheter and catheter site care, *Journal of Hospital Infection* (2016), doi: 10.1016/j.jhin.2015.11.011.
2. Timsit JF, et al. Randomized Controlled Trial of Chlorhexidine Dressing and Highly Adhesive Dressing for Preventing Catheter-Related Infections in Critically Ill Adults. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine* 2012; 186 (12):1272-1278.
3. National Institute for Care and Health Excellence. The 3M Tegaderm CHG I.V. securement dressing for central venous and arterial catheter insertion sites. NICE medical technology guidance [MTG25]. July 2015. <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mtg25>

About epic guidelines

National evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections (HCAI) in NHS hospitals in England are systematically developed broad statements of good practice, intended to inform the development of operational protocols at local level. They were commissioned by the Department of Health and developed by a nurse-led multi-professional team of researchers and specialist clinicians. The guidelines were first published in January 2001 and updated in 2007. They are subject to timely review in order that new research evidence and technological advances can be identified, appraised and, if shown to be effective for the prevention of HCAI, incorporated into amended guidelines.

About the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)

NICE is the independent body responsible for driving improvement and excellence in the health and social care system. It develops guidance, standards and information on high-quality health and social care. It also advises on ways to promote healthy living and prevent ill health.

About 3M – the science-based technology company

At 3M we collaborate and apply science in powerful ways to improve lives daily. With \$32 billion in sales, our 90,000 employees connect with and serve customers all around the world. Our healthcare business is dedicated to improving the practice, delivery and outcome of patient care and is a leading provider of solutions for medical, oral care, drug delivery and health information markets.

Learn about 3M's creative solutions to the world's problems at www.3M.co.uk or on Twitter @3M_UK or @3M_Medical_News

3M and Tegaderm are trademarks of 3M Company.

3M Media contact: Julie Owen, 3M, Tel: 01509 613372 email: jowen1@mmm.com