

## Skin Cleansing Treatment

Infection control is always important, and all the more so when you are in the hospital. At UCLA, we take our responsibility to protect you against infection very seriously. You may have some questions about this treatment, and we hope that these answers will help you to understand why we feel this is an important part of your care while you are at UCLA.

### What's the treatment like?

You will be bathed every 24 hours with a special solution called *chlorhexidine gluconate*, or CHG. It is a no-rinse solution that is applied during or after your daily bath. The solution will help protect you from healthcare-associated infections, such as surgical-site infections and central line associated bloodstream infections. CHG kills MRSA, VRE and C. Diff and is also effective against other common causes of infection in the hospital setting.



### Why do I need this treatment every day?

Hospital studies have shown that it is better to prevent infections before they can start rather than treat them after they have taken hold. At UCLA, we believe CHG is most effective when it is used every day on patients.

## How does it work?

CHG kills germs on contact and stays active on the skin even after washing. CHG is used as a gentle antiseptic skin cleanser. Just as washing your hands often promotes good health, daily skin cleaning with CHG removes bacteria that may cause disease.

## Is it safe?

CHG has been used by physicians, dentists and healthcare workers for more than 30 years, and has been shown to be safe and effective.

If you have other questions or want more information about this treatment, please ask your nurse.