

# Healthy Skin, Safe Patients: The Value of patient hygiene

## Clinical Consensus Statement

**Our report 'Healthy skin, safe patients: The value of patient hygiene' sheds a light on the best approaches to empowering healthcare professionals and organisations with key tools to prevent hospital acquired infections.**

Based off the consensus from an expert panel discussion, the report explores five key statements about the importance of patient hygiene, skin integrity and the value of CHG bathing. These statements help demonstrate the value effective hygiene practices can have in preventing infections and aiding patients in their recovery.

**Statement One** – Patient hygiene is more than a discretionary process; it is a fundamental element of basic care and must be seen as an essential, evidence-based infection prevention and control protocol.

**Statement Two** – Healthcare associated infections-associated pathogens on a patient's skin can pose a considerable risk to their healthy recovery, before and after surgical procedures.

**Statement Three** – Promotion of skin integrity carries importance in infection prevention and helps eliminate new portals of entry for pathogens.

**Statement Four** – A consistent approach to CHG bathing should be considered best practice for high-risk surgical procedures as part of an SSI preventative bundle to reduce the risk of infection.

**Statement Five** – Consistent use of CHG bathing is effective in improving patient outcomes and provides added value for the NHS.

**1 in 11** people acquires a potentially life-threatening healthcare associated infection (HCAI) while in hospital.<sup>1</sup>

**1 in 7** HCAI cases are attributed to Surgical Site Infections (SSI), which can result in substantial physical or psychological disability.<sup>2</sup>

**300,000** patients a year in England acquire HCAIs, costing the NHS an estimated £1 billion per year.<sup>3,4</sup>

**CHG** bathing captures bacteria such as MRSA and washes away those that are not affected by antiseptics.<sup>5,6</sup>

**Patients using CHG bathing products report fewer complications and are less likely to be re-admitted to hospital.<sup>7,8</sup>**



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