

# Infection Prevention

A surgical site infection (SSI) is an infection that occurs after surgery in the part of the body where the surgery took place. Most patients who have surgery do not develop an infection when we follow some simple guidelines to avoid bacteria coming in contact with the incision.

Your child's safety is our priority. To help prevent SSI, please follow the recommendations below:

- You'll be instructed to give your child a chlorhexidine bath the night before surgery. Your child will also receive a chlorhexidine bath the morning of surgery at the hospital.
- Please don't bring any clothes, blankets or stuffed animals from home into the hospital. These items have been found to increase risk of infection when coming in close contact with surgical sites. While in the ICU, your child will wear a hospital laundered gown.
- If your child has a comfort item that must accompany them to the hospital, please make sure that it has been cleaned prior to admission. Try to keep it away from the surgical incision – your care team can help with this
- Be sure healthcare professionals and all visitors clean their hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand rub before and after leaving the room.

