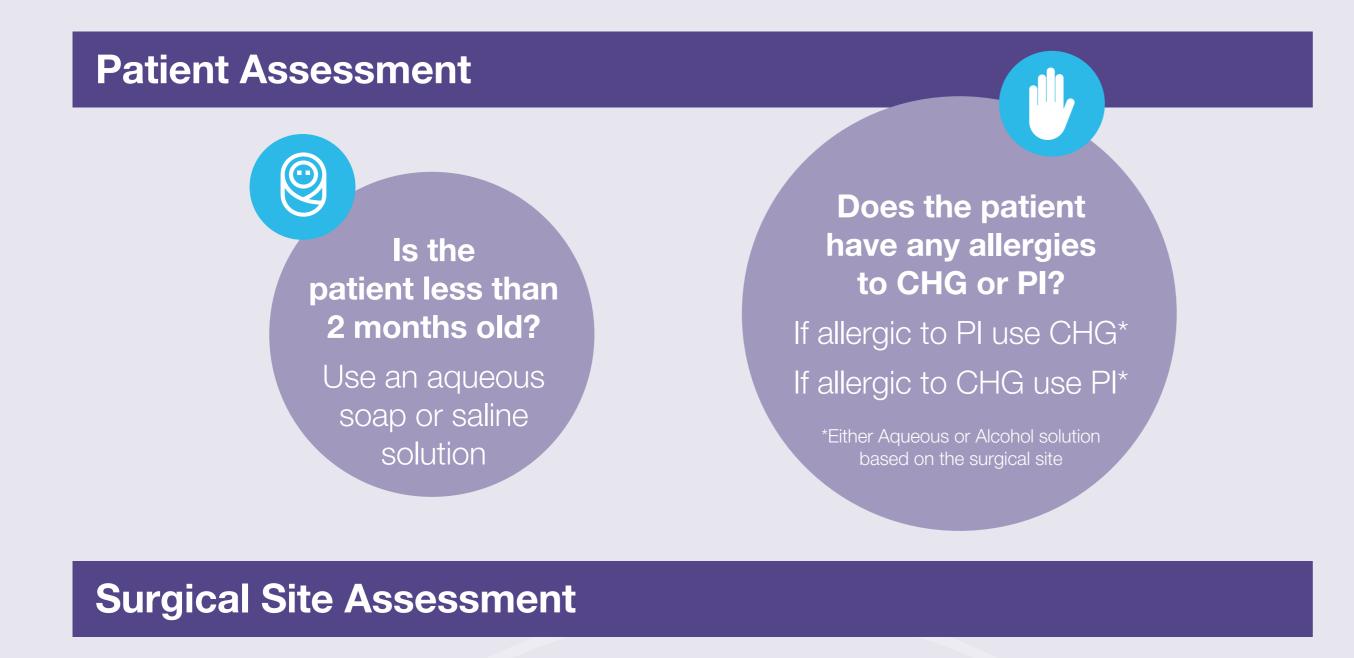


Surgical Skin Preparation: Decision Guide



Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG) or Povidone Iodine (PI) Skin Preparation

Surgical Skin Preparation Selection

Aqueous or Alcohol Based Solutions

Alcoholic skin preparations are more

prevention of SSIs.

where possible.

effective than aqueous solutions in the

Expert guidance therefore supports the use

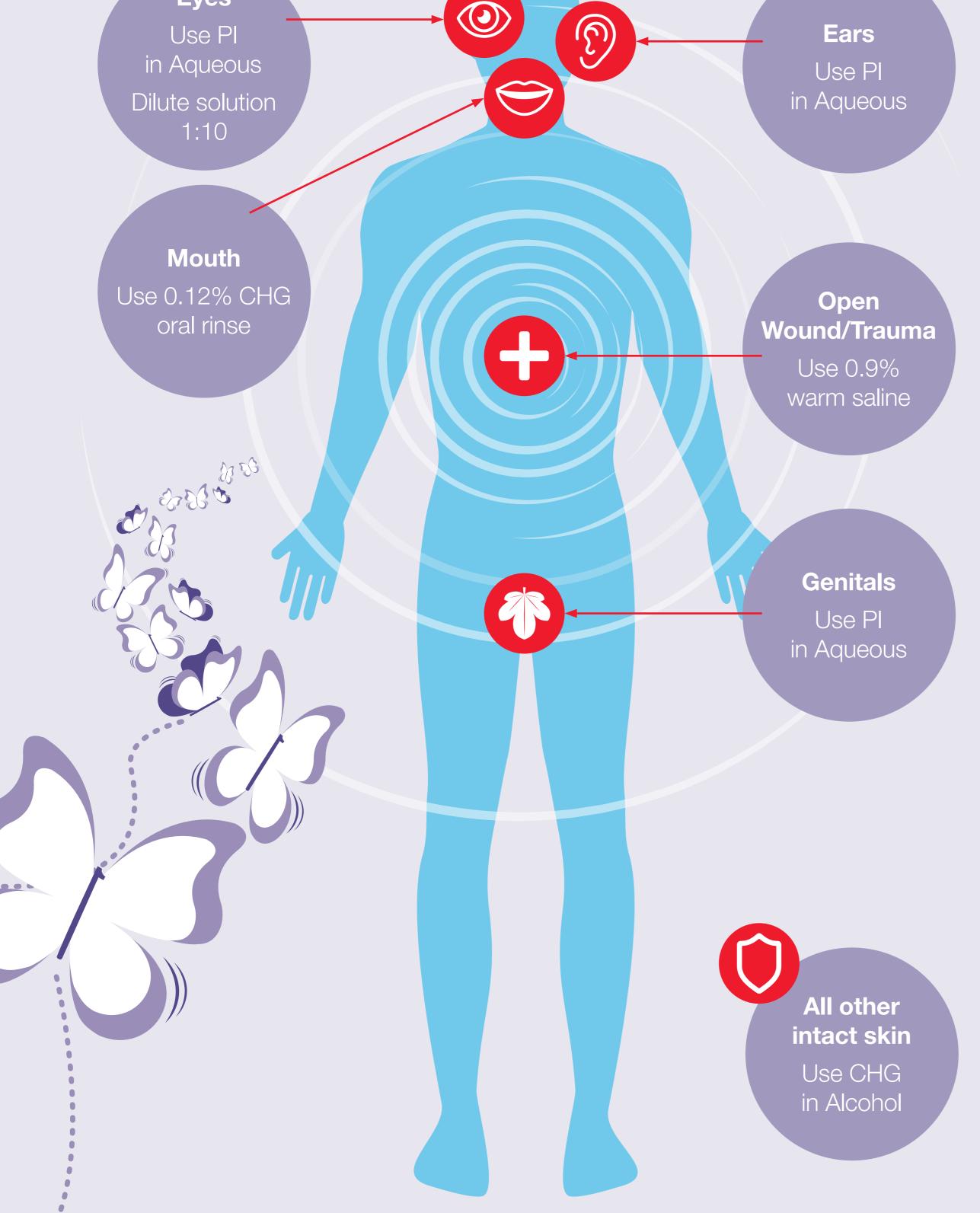
Aqueous skin preparations should only be

used when skin preparations containing

alcohol are contraindicated.

of an alcohol-based skin preparation solution

Eyes



Both PI and CHG are effective against a broad range of skin microorganisms and exert persistent activity that prevents regrowth for several hours after application.

Evidence for differences in efficacy between CHG and PI is currently limited, but tends to favour CHG.

0.5% or 2% CHG Solutions

Assumptions that a 2% solution is more effective have been made because of guidance related to intravenous (IV) devices.

Since an IV device remains in the skin for prolonged periods the conditions are not comparable.

Currently there is limited evidence for the enhanced efficacy of 2% solutions, over 0.5% solutions, in surgical skin preparation.

Multi-Dose Bottles or Single-Use Applicators

Single-use applicators have been developed to minimise the risk of contamination and misuse associated with multi-dose bottles.

If multi-dose containers are used it is important to use aseptic technique during handling e.g. not touching the cap or inside neck of the bottle and label with the date of opening and used within a defined period, as recommended by the manufacturers.

Always follow manufacturers instructions for use

If a single-use applicator is used, it should be discarded immediately.

Reference: OneTogether Surgical Skin Preparation Quality Improvement Resource, 2019

