



**Medical Directive
Chlorhexidine Mouth Wash**

Lakeridge Health Approved by/Date: **Medical Advisory Comm. – Jan 28, 2014**

Authorizing physician(s)

Critical Care Intensivists

Authorized to who

Critical Care Registered Nurses and Registered Respiratory Therapists

Patient Description / Population

Patients admitted to the adult critical care program with an endotracheal tube or tracheostomy tube on a mechanical ventilator.

Medical Directive Description/Physician's Order

- Chlorhexidine 0.12% Mouthwash every 12 hours
- Discontinue Chlorhexidine 0.12% Mouthwash post liberation from the ventilator for endotracheal intubated patients
- Discontinue Chlorhexidine 0.12% Mouthwash once liberated from the ventilator for 24 hours for tracheostomy patients

Specific conditions/circumstances that must be met before the Directive can be implemented

Patient must have an endotracheal tube or tracheostomy tube and on a mechanical ventilator.

Contraindications to the implementation of the Directive

Allergy to Chlorhexidine
Refusal of patient or substitute decision maker
Severe mucositis

Identify relevant Delegated Control Act or Added Skill associated with this Directive

None

Documentation requirements

"*Medical Directive – Chlorhexidine Mouth wash*" indicated on the order sheet by the Health Care Professional initiating the medical directive

Review/Evaluation Process (how often/by who)

Every 2 years by Critical Care Council

Originating Committee: Critical Care Council – September 17, 2013
Medical Advisory Committee: January 28, 2014

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References

Prevent Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) Campaign; Safer Healthcare Now.
<http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca/EN/Interventions/VAP/Pages/default.aspx>