Helping to Reduce the Risk of Surgical Site Infection in Joint Replacement Patients

*Staphylococcus aureus* Decolonization

Instruction for Patients

Your recent nasal swabs were tested and showed that you are carrying a strain of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria that occasionally can cause serious infection. At the present time the bacterium is just colonizing your skin and/or your nose and is not likely to cause an immediate problem.

This germ is one of the leading causes of infections in many surgeries. Because we want to do everything we can to prevent anyone from getting an infection we recommend a thorough body cleansing with a special soap to remove the staph.

This treatment will reduce your chance of getting a staph infection and will remove the staph from your body for a period of several months.

**Needed Supplies:** 4% aqueous chlorhexidine solution (Hibiclens)

**Daily Routine for 5 days – When you bathe or shower**

Carefully read all the direction on the product label

*Note: DO NOT USE 4% chlorhexidine (Hibiclens) on your head or face. Avoid contact with your eyes. Avoid use in the genital area. An irritation may result. Use regular soap in that area.*

- If you plan to wash your hair, do so with regular shampoo and rinse thoroughly.
- Then rinse your body thoroughly with warm water from the neck down.
- With a fresh clean wash cloth, apply a minimum amount of 4% chlorhexidine (Hibiclens) necessary to cover your skin. You can apply directly to the skin and wash gently. Allow the antiseptic to remain on the skin for several minutes.
- Rinse thoroughly with warm water.
- Do not use your regular soap after applying the Hibiclens and rinsing.
- Use a fresh towel to dry your body.
- Do not use lotions, powders or creams after this bath or shower.
- Repeat this procedure for 5 days prior to surgery.