

Hair Removal: Appropriate Clipping (No Shaving)

Site Applicability

PHC: SPH OR; MSJ OR; DT Procedure Room; Surgical Procedure Rooms

Practice Level

Basic: Within the scope of practice of every perioperative nurse and physician

Need to Know

1. **NO SHAVING.**
2. A member of the surgical team or nursing staff can carry out hair removal.
3. When indicated, hair removal is done:
 - a. **As close to the surgical incision time as possible.**
 - b. **Using clippers only.**
4. Each OR has a charge stand, clipper handle, single-use clipper blades, and adhesive mitts.

Protocol

Assessment and Interventions:

1. Prior to hair removal, assess the patient's skin condition around the proposed incision site.
2. Consult and verify with the surgeon regarding the need for hair removal and the size of the area to be shaved.
3. Use a new clipper blade for each patient.
4. Follow the clipper manufacturer's recommended guidelines for proper hair removal technique(s). ([Appendix A](#))
5. Pick up any loose hair using disposable adhesive mitt. For patients with excessive hair, place a towel or sheet under the area to be clipped to catch excess hair from the field. Remove the towel or sheet when hair removal is complete.
6. Remove the used clipper blade and discard in sharps waste container.
7. Send the used/dirty clipper handle to MDRD for disinfection. Place used/dirty clipper handle in a bin inside the case cart. Get a replacement handle from the Core.
8. Store clipper handle in the charger stand when not in use.

Documentation

Document hair removal method in the **Skin Prep** segment in Cerner.

References











1. Centers for Disease Control. (2017). Guideline for Prevention of Surgical Site Infection. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/ssi/index.html>
2. ORNAC. (2021). *The ORNAC standards, guidelines, and position statements for perioperative registered nurses* (15th ed.), 2-54

Appendix A

How to Use*

3M™ Single Use Blade Assembly - 9670

with the 3M Surgical Clipper 9671

Operating		Cordless		Corded
Changing Blades		Attach After removing the backing from the blade packaging, hold the clipper handle at a 45-degree angle and snap on a single-use blade. <small>3M™ Surgical Clipper with Fixed Head Single-use Blade 9670</small>		Remove With your thumb, "pop off" used blade into a sharps waste receptacle. <small>To eliminate cross-contamination from blade, use a new blade for each patient.</small>
Clipping <small>PUSH OR PULL</small>		Push Position the blade on the skin surface. Gently push the clipper forward across the patient's skin, clipping "against the grain" of hair.		Pull Position the blade at a 0-slight angle to skin surface. Gently pull the clipper toward you, across the patient's skin. <small>Do not use excessive pressure to push the clipper down on the patient's skin. Let the clipper glide across the skin surface.</small>
Cleaning <small>WIPE OR RINSE</small>		Wipe With the clipper in the "off" position and the blade already removed, wipe clipper handle with an alcohol wipe or other wet cloth.		Rinse Rinse head of clipper handle under warm, running water and wipe dry. <small>NOTE — Do not immerse in water.</small>
Charging		Charge When not in use, store clipper handle in "off" position and plugged in either direct to wall charger or through charge stand. Yellow light indicates charging mode.		A 12-hour recharge provides approximately 60 minutes of cordless run time. Run time limitation does not apply to corded operation. <small>Before initial use, charge for 10 - 24 hours. There's no risk of overcharging. After initial use, charging inside the 16 hours will not result in longer run time.</small>

* Refer to package insert for warnings and more detailed instructions.



Persons/Groups Consulted:

PHC SSI Prevention Working Group

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