



# Speak Up to Prevent CLABSI

*Your child's health and safety are important to us. You can make a difference in your child's care by asking questions and being actively involved.*

## **What is CLABSI?**

A central line associated bloodstream infection occurs when bacteria enter the blood through a catheter or tube in a vein.

## **What are chlorhexidine gluconate treatments and how do they help prevent CLABSI?**

Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) treatments are antimicrobial wipes or soaps that are used to kill germs and bacteria on the skin that may cause infections. Most children in the hospital with a central line will have a CHG treatment with wipes or soap, every day. Ask your child's care provider if you have questions about daily CHG treatments.

## **What can you do to help prevent CLABSI?**

- Wash your hands before touching, feeding, or holding your child. Wash your hands after changing diapers and touching personal devices like cell phones. Remind your child and their care team to wash their hands often.
- Long fingernails and clothing, jewelry, or other accessories below the elbow may increase the risk for infection as these items cannot be thoroughly cleaned with regular handwashing.
- When holding or moving your child, be cautious of tubing and ensure it does not touch the floor.
- Avoid touching the central line and other tubing on your child. Ask your child's care team to clearly identify the central line on your child and be sure to identify it to visitors. Ask visitors not to touch the central line and other tubing.
- Avoid touching bandages and dressings on your child. If bandages come off, become wet or dirty, tell your child's care team immediately.
- Ask your child's care team how to protect the central line when they shower or bathe.
- Ask your child's care team how long your child will have a central line and if they have a plan to remove it.

**Speak up if you have any questions or concerns about your child's central line.**