

# FAQs for Excelle® Antiseptic Skin Cleanser



## What is Excelle?

It is a fast-acting antimicrobial skin cleanser that demonstrates persistence against a broad spectrum of gram-positive and gram-negative bacteria, yeast and mold.

## What is the active ingredient in Excelle? Is it better than others?

4% chlorhexidine gluconate with 4% alcohol has been shown to be one of the most effective antimicrobials available and an agent specifically recommended by the CDC in the latest set of guidelines for Hand Hygiene (2002). It is a powerful antimicrobial and demonstrates persistence of antibacterial action up to 4 – 6 hours after scrubbing. Excelle antiseptic skin cleanser is directly comparable to Hibiclens® in active ingredients and applications.

## Does Excelle meet the CDC guidelines for hand hygiene?

Yes! Agents used for surgical hand antisepsis must have broad spectrum of antimicrobial activity, be fast-acting, non-irritating and have persistent effect. Excelle's special formula of antimicrobials and emollients are ideal for all

levels of hand hygiene from routine handwash to surgical antisepsis.

## What is the CDC recommendation for hand hygiene for surgical procedures?

Excelle antiseptic skin cleanser meets all the CDC recommendations for pre-surgical hand hygiene. The CDC guidelines specify that products for hand hygiene prior to surgical procedures must include antimicrobials demonstrating broad spectrum activity and persistence. Alcohol-based (waterless) hand rubs alone are NOT adequate for pre-surgical hand hygiene. Hand scrubbing should be conducted for a minimum of 2 to 6 minutes. Avoid the use of coarse scrub brushes that might abrade intact skin.

## What are the CDC recommendations for storage and dispensing of hand-care products?

Store liquid hand-care products in either disposable closed containers or closed containers that can be washed and dried before refilling. Do not add (top off) soap or lotion to a partially empty dispenser. Recent studies indicate bacterial contamination from wall-mounted dispensers that are not periodically emptied and rinsed out.

## What type of dispenser is available for Excelle?

The dispenser is a 16 ounce bottle labeled to meet OSHA guidelines and featuring a special pump that dispenses Excelle in a light foam. This feature reduces waste and sticky drips, allowing the soap to be quickly dispersed in the hands for effective cleaning. It is easily rinsed out prior to refilling.

## Can Excelle cause stains on uniforms or towels?

The active agent chlorhexidine gluconate is a very effective antimicrobial, but it can bind with cotton fibers or interact with bleach. To avoid stains on uniforms or towels, rinse clinical laundry through a plain water rinse cycle with no detergents or bleach prior to regular laundry cycles.

Ref. CDC Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health Care Settings – 2003, MMWR; 52(No. RR-17) pp. 14 – 15.