



***Information for Patients with Positive Nasal Screens for
MSSA (Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus) or
MRSA (Methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus)***

One important part of your preoperative evaluation is the identification of possible sources of infection. It is important to diagnose and treat any infections prior to surgery to reduce the risk of infection after surgery. This process involves specific testing done at GBMC's Diagnostic Center 10-30 days before your surgery date to comply with GBMC's Joint or Spine Program protocol.

The MSSA/MRSA nasal culture will check for the presence of staphylococcal bacteria. Staphylococcal bacteria can be present on the skin and in the nose of healthy individuals without symptoms (known as colonization). **A positive nasal screen does not mean you are infected, nor will your surgery be canceled.**

If your culture shows the presence of *Methicillin-sensitive Staphylococcus aureus* (MSSA) *standard precautions are needed. But if your result indicates Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), a form of the bacteria that is **resistant** to commonly used antibiotics, your care team will be notified, and the appropriate IV antibiotic(s) will be ordered and given to you in the pre-op/OR areas the day of surgery.

- 1. Pre-op CHG wash:** You will be given a Pre-op CHG Wash Kit from the Joint & Spine Center. Your CHG preop wash starts three nights before surgery with the fourth wash the morning before you come to the hospital for your surgery. Your surgeon may need you to continue to use the CHG wash when you are discharged home. Follow the instructions you are given for the CHG antiseptic. The morning of your surgery, your pre-op nurses will have you wash your skin with a chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) wipes. Using CHG on your skin will reduce your risk of getting an infection.
- 2. Pre-op IV Antibiotic(s):** On the day of surgery, once you are admitted into the pre-op area, IV antibiotics will be infused. Ancef, Vancomycin, or both if you are positive for **MRSA+**.
- 3. MRSA+ patients** will be placed on **contact isolation** requiring the staff to wear a protective gown and gloves to prevent the transmission of the bacteria to other patients in the hospital.
- 4. Pre-op Normal/MSSA+/MRSA+ decolonizing nasal cleanser:** Nozin® Nasal Sanitizer® is advanced antiseptic for nasal decolonization of germs that can transfer into the surgical incision site. The morning of your surgery your nurse in the pre-op area will clean the inside of your nose with Nozin®.
- 5. Post-op Normal/MSSA+/MRSA+ decolonizing nasal cleanser:** After surgery, you will continue to use the post-op Nozin® Nasal Sanitizer® every 12 hours until your post-op wound check with your surgeon or until the 12-mL bottle is empty (30 days/twice a day).

Instructions for Post-op Nozin® Nasal Sanitizer®:

All Joint & Spine patient cohorts regardless of their MSSA/MRSA results will be participating in this decolonizing regimen. The picture below shows how to clean the inside of your nose. This nasal sanitizer removes MSSA/MRSA and harmful germs that are harboring inside your nose, reducing your risk of getting an infection.

- Once you are admitted to the nursing unit after your surgery, your nurse will provide you with a Post-op Nozin® Nasal Sanitizer® 12 mL kit that includes a starter supply of cotton applicators. ***Do not misplace or throw away the box.*** You can use any over the counter cotton swab.
- The nurse will scan the box barcode into your electronic medication administration record (eMAR)
- Your first dose after surgery will be on arrival to the unit.
- Your second dose will be at 9 pm that same day of your surgery.
- You will continue to clean the inside of your nose every 12 hours as instructed, 9 am and 9 pm, every day until your post-op wound check or until the bottle is empty (30 days, twice a day).

How to Apply Nozin®: (see Figure 1 image on next page)

1. Shake the 12-mL bottle well. Remove Cap.
2. Saturate the cotton applicator: Apply four (4) drops of solution onto cotton swab tip.
3. Apply: Insert swab tip into the RIGHT nostril. Swab eight (8) times clockwise and eight (8) times counterclockwise.
4. Swab: Ensure swab rotation covers all surfaces, including the inside tip of the nostril.
5. Re-saturate Again: Re-saturate the swab tip by applying two (2) drops of solution.
6. Apply to Left Nostril: Repeat application **steps 3-4** in the LEFT nostril.

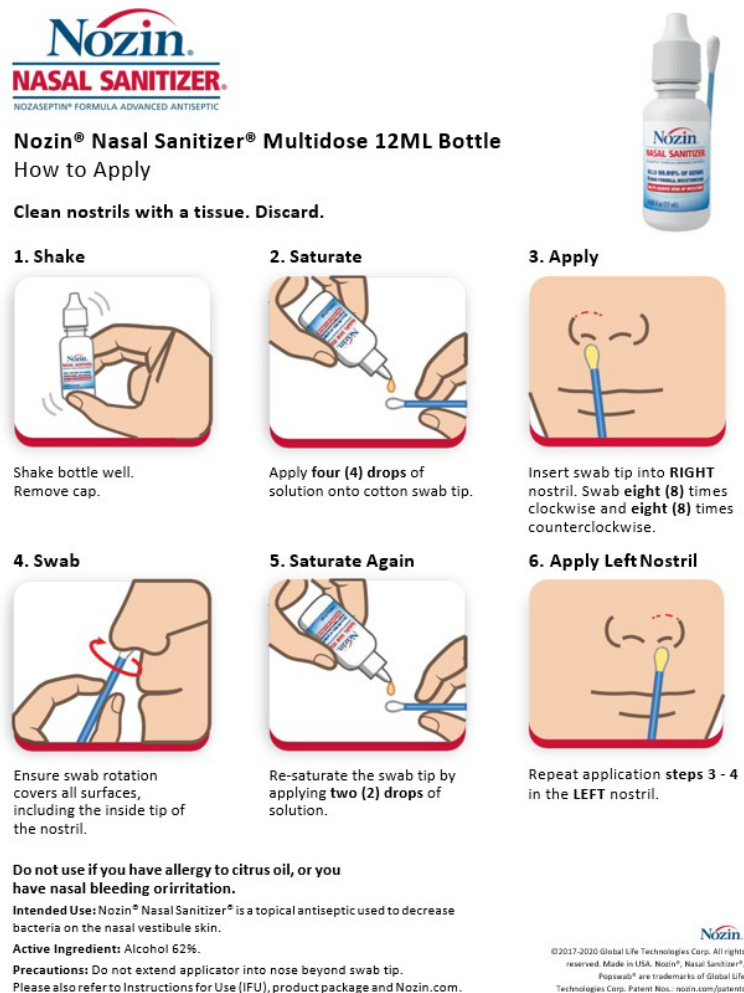


Figure 1

How can you prevent infections after surgery? The most important thing you can do is **wash your hands** regularly. You should wash your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Don't shave near where you will have surgery. Shaving with a razor can irritate your skin and make it easier to develop an infection.
- Wash with the Preop CHG solution as directed, starting 3 nights before surgery, last CHG shower is the morning of surgery; a total of 4 CHG showers.
- Keep any wounds clean and change your bandages the way your healthcare provider taught you. Clean your hands before and after changing your bandages.