



How to Control Bad Bacteria

Staphylococcus aureus and Streptococcus are germs that cause impetigo and other types of skin infections. In some people, these germs hide in their nose and skin folds. In people with eczema, these germs can also live on their skin. This is called “colonization.” People who are colonized can pass these germs to others who may be more likely to get an infection.

Antibiotic treatment:

Mupirocin (Bactroban®, Centany®) & retapamulin (Altabax®) are antibiotics that control and even eliminate colonization with these germs. **Apply ointment twice a day for 5 days in a row. Repeat the course of treatment every 1-3 months.**

To keep medicine tube free of germs:

- Use a clean cotton swab to apply medicine
- Do not reuse the same swab to touch the tube
- Store medication in the refrigerator

For your child:

- Apply ointment to nostrils and skin folds (ex: armpits, behind the ears, ear canals, groin folds, belly button, anal area and any scabbed areas)
- Add ¼ cup household bleach to bath water

For all other family members:

- Apply ointment to nostrils only
- Use an antibacterial cleanser once a day for bathing to help control skin colonization. Liquid cleansers are usually less irritating to the skin than bar soaps, and less likely to be contaminated with repeated use. For best results, when one product is used up, purchase another product with a different active ingredient.

Antibacterial cleansers:

Active Ingredient	Brand Names
triclosan	Bar and liquid Lever 2000, Liquid Dial, Zest, Safeguard
triclocarban	Bar Dial, Zest, Safeguard
chlorhexidine	Hibiclens (avoid use on the face)
salicylic acid	Neutrogena Acne Wash, Saalex
benzoyl peroxide	Benzac, Triaz