Antiseptic Soap, Nasal Spray
Reduced Nursing Home Hospitalizations

Fewer nursing home residents who used chlorhexidine wash (an antiseptic soap) for bathing alongside twice-daily nasal povidone-iodine (an antiseptic solution) were hospitalized for an infection compared with residents who did not receive the disinfection protocol, according to results involving nearly 29,000 participants living in 28 US facilities.

The researchers found that 9.7 and 8.9 people would need to be treated with the decolonization protocol to prevent 1 infection-related or any cause-related hospitalization, respectively. The results indicate that “the prevention of serious infection in nursing homes can be facilitated with a relatively simple intervention with a low number needed to treat,” the researchers wrote in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Currently, it’s estimated that up to 3 million serious infections occur each year in US nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. – Emily Harris

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Note: Source references are available through embedded hyperlinks in the article text online.