



# Practice Briefs

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**Our Dialysis facility does not routinely apply antibiotic ointment or povidone iodine ointment to vascular catheter exit sites. Should we?**

## **Yes**

CDC recommends using povidone iodine ointment or bacitracin/gramicidin/polymyxin B ointment (not currently available in the United States). Triple antibiotic ointment (bacitracin/neomycin/polymyxin B) is available and might have a similar benefit. Mupirocin ointment is not recommended due to concerns about development of antimicrobial resistance. This is considered a “Core Intervention” in dialysis safety.

More information can be found at:

Core Interventions to reduce dialysis bloodstream Infections:

<http://www.cdc.gov/dialysis/prevention-tools/core-interventions.html>

Certain chronic hemodialysis catheters are compatible with certain antiseptic ointments. A reference chart is available at the following link:

<http://www.cdc.gov/dialysis/prevention-tools/catheter-compatibility-information.html>