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Chlorhexadine Gluconate 2% Solution Use Advisory

Problem: Precipitation, staining and coating of surfaces and stainless steel instruments

Chlorhexadine Gluconate 2% solution is labeled for use at a rate of 1 ounce per gallon of tap water. When used at label rates you will not experience separation of the chlorhexadine gluconate or staining. When it is used at higher inclusion rates with tap water you can expect precipitation of the chlorhexadine and excipients (color) on surfaces especially stainless steel. We have tested this and it occurs with **all** currently marketed veterinary brands and increases with the concentration of the chlorhexadine gluconate relative to the hardness of the tap water and time mixed.

Solution:

When mixing chlorhexadine at higher concentrations, the use of distilled or deionized water instead of tap water will eliminate or significantly reduce the precipitation of the product on surfaces over time.

Long term storage of instruments in chlorhexadine is not recommended as it can be corrosive to the instrument.

Removal of precipitate on surfaces if it occurs is a 2 step process. To remove the stain, use isopropyl alcohol. Soak or wipe, rinse and dry.

Removal of Chlorhexidine, use a 50% vinegar solution. Soak, wipe, rinse and dry.