

## Triclosan Based Soaps

Many commercially available soaps purchased from the warehouse clubs, grocery stores and drug stores marketed as "antibacterial" may not be appropriate for use in the healthcare environment as noted in the Federal Register, Vol. 43, No. 4, page 1232, referencing the active ingredient triclosan (see underlined quote below)

Triclosan differs from some other bacteriostatic chemicals active primarily against gram-positive bacteria, in that it does have limited in vitro and probable in vivo activity against some gram-negative bacteria, but unfortunately not against *Pseudomonas* species...human skin is a culture medium superior in many instances to those devised by microbiologists. This raises the possibility that use of triclosan by healthcare personnel in closed environments such as hospitals and nursing homes would act to selectively promote the growth of *Pseudomonas*, especially on their hands, in an environment where *Pseudomonas* is ubiquitous, and may be life-threatening to many patients. **“The Commissioner has determined that triclosan containing products should not be used in the hospital or other closed environments, such as nursing homes, where individuals are present who may be highly susceptible to infection with microorganisms not normally pathogenic (opportunistic pathogens). Accordingly, the Commissioner has determined that triclosan as a single ingredient is not safe for use in healthcare personnel handwashes, surgical scrubs, and patient preoperative preparations.”**

Examples of triclosan based products are Dial liquid, BacDown, Lever 2000 liquid, and Softsoap Antibacterial.

AloeGuard® contains PCMX, a highly effective antimicrobial agent.

April 2003