

GLOVELESS

- risk assess to use less!



Risk assess your glove use

Gloves OFF:



- Do NOT wear gloves when not in contact with blood, bodily fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin for example when taking a blood pressure
- To minimise waste therefore environmental impact
- To protect hands
- Prolonged use of gloves increases the risk of transmission of bacteria
- Inappropriate use results in missed opportunities for hand hygiene

Gloves ON:



- Wear gloves when in contact with blood, bodily fluids, mucous membranes or non-intact skin
- When in contact with chemical hazards such as disinfectant and cytotoxic drugs
- Gloves to be changed between each contact or task

It is important to ensure PPE is used correctly to ensure patient/ resident/ service user and staff safety.

Glove use questions:

1. When should I wear gloves?

You are only required to wear gloves when it is anticipated that you will have contact with blood, body fluid, secretions and excretions, mucous membranes, draining wounds, non-intact skin and chemicals.

2. Why do I have to perform hand hygiene before putting gloves on?

Hands must be clean and dry prior to putting gloves on. You may contaminate the gloves in the process of donning therefore risk cross contamination.

3. Why do I have to perform hand hygiene after taking my gloves off?

Gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination. Microorganisms can multiply in warm environments under gloves.

When removing gloves, it is very difficult to remove them without contaminating hands in the process.

Hand hygiene must always be performed after glove removal.

4. Can I double glove and then remove them as they become dirty?

NO, double gloving is not recommended for routine clinical care.

5. Can I ever use the same pair of gloves for different tasks?

NO, using the same pair of gloves for different tasks will increase the risk of transmission of organisms. Replace gloves between each task.

6. Can I store clean gloves in my pocket until I need them?

NO, your pockets will not be clean and will contaminate your gloves.

7. Can I put dirty gloves in my pocket until I find a bin to dispose of them?

NO, place dirty gloves directly into clinical waste bag immediately after use.

8. Can I wash gloves and re-use them?

NO, gloves are single use and washing them or using alcohol hand rub can impact the glove integrity

THE USE OF GLOVES IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR HAND HYGIENE!

Please refer to the National IPC manual for when to perform hand hygiene and for best practice technique on hand washing and hand rub.

Link to the
IPC manual

