

Do's and don'ts for wearing gloves in the healthcare environment

Types of gloves encountered in the healthcare setting

Sterile Gloves

Indicated for performing any sterile procedure including but not limited to vaginal delivery, invasive radiological procedure, central vascular device dressing change, and accessing implanted central venous access ports.

Non-Sterile Gloves

(e.g., nitrile, latex, medical vinyl)

Indicated in situations when there is potential for contact with infectious material (e.g., blood, other body fluids, microorganisms).

Non-Medical Gloves

(e.g., vinyl)

May be used for food handling and some housekeeping procedures (e.g., cleaning and disinfection).

Utility Gloves

(e.g., facility, maintenance, central sterile processing)

Used for manual cleaning of instruments and decontamination with harsh chemicals.



DO

DO wear gloves to reduce the risk of contamination or exposure to blood, other body fluids, hazardous materials, and transmission of infection.

DO clean hands before putting on gloves for a sterile procedure (e.g., insertion of catheter or other invasive device).

DO clean hands after removing gloves.

DO clean hands and change gloves between each task (e.g., after contact with a contaminated surface or environment).

DO make sure that gloves fit you properly before performing any tasks.

DO ensure the correct type of glove is available if you have skin sensitivity or allergy issues.

DO wear gloves in hemodialysis settings for any contact with the patient or the patient's equipment.

DO follow your facility's policy on glove use and remember to consult CDC* and WHO* hand hygiene guidance.

DON'T

DON'T re-use or wash gloves (except for utility gloves after being properly cleaned).

DON'T substitute glove use for hand hygiene.

DON'T use non-approved hand lotions.

DON'T use gloves if they are damaged or visibly soiled.

DON'T touch your face when wearing gloves.

DON'T wear the same pair of gloves from one patient to another.

DON'T wear gloves in the hall; consult your facility's policy for exceptions.

DON'T forget to remove and dispose of gloves properly.

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The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) may update guidance related to gloves as emerging pathogens arise and new recommendations are developed. Be on the lookout for updates by visiting the OSHA website or consult your facility's infection prevention or occupational health department. Learn more: https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10051

The FDA has proposed a ban on most powdered medical gloves in an effort to protect patients and healthcare personnel from a danger they may not even be aware of. See the link for the news release: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm491466.htm>

Resources

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Guideline for hand hygiene in healthcare settings," October 2002. Available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5116.pdf>
- The World Health Organization, "Glove Use Information Leaflet," August 2009. Available at: http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/Glove_Use_1nformation_Leaflet.pdf
- APIC Guide to the Elimination of Infections in Hemodialysis, 2010. Available at: <http://www.apic.org/Professional-Practice/Implementation-guides#Hemodialysis>
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Frequently Asked Questions - Personal Protective Equipment (Masks, Protective Eyewear, Protective Apparel, Gloves)," July 2013. Available at: http://www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/infectioncontrol/faq/protective_equipment.htm
- The Joint Commission, "Glovesick," July 2014. Available at: <http://www.jcrinc.com/assets/1/7/ECNews-Jul-2014.pdf>
- The Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, Letter of Interpretation, April 2, 2007. Available at: https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=25742

