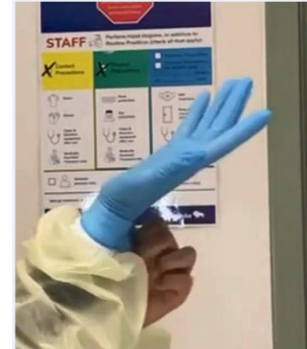


Gloves in Healthcare

Medical gloves are meant to be disposable and single use. To be protective as intended, they must be used with hand hygiene. They are only effective when used at the right time. Hand hygiene still remains the basic and most effective way to prevent the transfer of germs and infection. Glove use does not change hand hygiene indications or replace hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub (World Health Organization, 2009). 1/3 of gloves used in healthcare are not necessary. Gloves can pick up and transfer germs in exactly the same way as ungloved hands, so it is important they are used properly to reduce the risk and spread of germs to patients, families and staff (The Healthcare Infection Society, 2023). Gloves also have microscopic holes in them, which can allow contamination by organisms that are smaller than the holes.



How do we decrease the risk of transmission related to gloves?

- ✓ Staff need to understand when it is necessary to wear gloves by performing a Point of Care Assessment (PRCA)
- ✓ Staff need to understand that gloves do not replace the need to clean their hands; hand hygiene is required before donning, and after doffing

Correct Glove use recommendations



- ✓ Only wear gloves when you decide you need them as per your point of care risk assessment (e.g., staff may be in contact with blood and bodily fluids or contaminated items).
- ✓ Perform hand hygiene prior to donning gloves
- ✓ Gloves are single-use and task-specific, only
- ✓ Once gloves are used for a task, staff need to remove gloves and perform hand hygiene immediately after removal.

Incorrect Glove use recommendations



- ✗ Do not double glove.
- ✗ Do not wash gloves.
- ✗ Do not wear gloves when touching common surfaces, such as telephones, computers, door knobs, and elevator buttons, or anything that may be touched without gloves by others.
- ✗ Do not carry gloves in your pockets.

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