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| **To glove or not to glove?**  Non-sterile gloves should only be used when needed.  Wearing non-sterile gloves should not be considered a substitute for hand hygiene. 1  There is evidence that healthcare workers may be less likely to perform correct hand hygiene when wearing gloves. |
| **GLOVE USE INFECTION CONTROL GUIDELINES** |
| **GLOVES (Non-sterile) NEED TO BE USED FOR2**   * Anticipating direct contact with non-intact skin, or mucous membrane 1, 2, 3 * Anticipating direct contact with blood, body substances, secretions or excretions 1, 2, 3 * Handling or touching visibly or potentially contaminated patient-care equipment, and environmental surfaces 1, 2 * Physical contact with clinical waste, eg dressings or contaminated linen / clothing 3 * Blood glucose and haemoglobin monitoring 2, 3 * Intravenous cannula insertion 2, 3 * Performing an invasive procedure, venepuncture or a finger or heel prick. 1 * Urinary catheter care3 * Routine intra-oral dental procedures 3 * Assisting with toileting 3 * Handling cytotoxic medications 1 (purple gloves) |
| **GLOVES DO NOT NEED TO BE USED FOR** (standard precautions patient with no known or suspected infection)   * Direct physical contact with intact skin 3 * Activities of daily living, eg washing 2, 3 * Routine observations (eg blood pressure measurement) 2, 3 * Performing subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intradermal injections 1 * Accessing cannula / IV line using aseptic non-touch technique |
| **CHANGE GLOVES** 1, 2, 3   * Between episodes of care for different patients * During care of the same patient after each episode of individual care if moving from a contaminated body site to another site. Work from clean to dirty site. * If gloves become torn or punctured 1 |
| **HAND HYGIENE SHOULD BE PERFORMED** 1, 2, 3  5 moments of hand hygiene:   1. Before touching a patient 2. Before a procedure 3. After a procedure or body fluid exposure risk 4. After touching a patient 5. A touching a patient’s surroundings.   And   * Before donning gloves * After gloves are removed |
| **For any questions about hand hygiene and glove use, contact your Ward NUM or Gloves Off Champion** |
| **What is the environmental impact of gloves?**  One non-sterile glove has an estimated carbon footprint of 0.034 kg Co2 e. 4  In comparison, using one application of Alcohol Based Hand Rub has an estimated footprint of 0.0009 kg Co2 e. 5  **What does that mean in everyday terms?**  John Hunter Hospital uses almost a million non-sterile gloves per month, at a cost of approximately $50, 000, with waste to landfill of over 3 tonnes.  The carbon footprint of those one million gloves would be equivalent to driving an average Australian passenger car all the way around Australia (a journey of approximately 15 000 km) 15 times. |
| **REFERENCES**   1. CLINICAL EXCELLENCE COMMISSION INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PRACTICE HANDBOOK   [Infection Prevention and Control Practice Handbook (nsw.gov.au)](https://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/383239/IPC-Practice-Handbook-2020.PDF)   1. Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare   [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (nhmrc.gov.au)](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/infection-control-guidelines-feb2020.pdf)   1. Clinical Educators Guide   [Clinical Educators Guide: Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare (nhmrc.gov.au)](https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/attachments/Clinical-Educators-Guide-WEB.pdf)   1. Jamal, H., Lyne, A., Ashley, P., & Duane, B. (2021). Non-sterile examination gloves and sterile surgical gloves: Which are more sustainable? Journal of Hospital Infection, 118, 87–95. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2021.10.001> 2. Jeffries, S. D., Tu, Z., Xu, H., Harutyunyan, R., & Hemmerling, T. M. (2023). Use of hand sanitiser as a potential substitution for nonsterile gloves in reducing carbon emissions. British Journal of Anaesthesia, 131(1). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bja.2023.03.029> |

**Gloves off , clean hands, safe for all**