

IC5: 0300 Gloves

1.0 STANDARD

Gloves shall be worn as determined by the point-of-care risk assessment when there is anticipation of direct contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions (except perspiration), non-intact skin and mucous membranes

Sterile gloves are required for any invasive procedures, when contact with sterile sites, tissues or body cavity is anticipated.

The barrier integrity of gloves varies on the basis of type and quality of glove material, intensity of use, length of time used and, manufacturer. Gloves should be Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and International Organization for Standardization - ISO 11193-1:2008, approved.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

The use of gloves does not replace the need for hand hygiene.

Wearing gloves can help reduce transmission of pathogens in healthcare settings. However, gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination.

Gloves may be adversely affected by petroleum-based hand lotions

Gloves are not completely free of leaks and tears/punctures can occur.

Hand hygiene is required prior to donning gloves and after glove removal.

Gloves should be removed immediately and discarded after the activity for which they were used and before exiting the environment of a patient.

Disposable gloves should not be washed or re-used.

Gloves should never be worn between patients.

To reduce hand irritation related to gloves:

- a) wear gloves for as short a time as possible
- b) clean and dry hands before donning gloves and after glove removal

For more information about standards for gloves, visit the Canadian General Standards Boards Certification and Qualification Programs web page at:

<http://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programmeprogram/certification/prog/medical-eng.htm>

|

Vinyl gloves

Vinyl or other synthetic agents are a suitable choice for contact with mucous membranes, body secretions, and soiled equipment unless a significant amount of blood is present. Third generation vinyl gloves can be used for contact with small amounts of blood for a maximum of 20 minutes

Examples include:

- Pericare and enemas
- Contact with non-intact skin
- Mouth care and oral suctioning
- Handling general waste and soiled linen
- Handling urinary drainage systems
- Handling soiled dressings
- IV starts
- Phlebotomies

Improvements in the quality of 2nd and 3rd generation vinyl gloves have made them safe to use for short duration tasks in the presence of blood.

Nitrile

Nitrile gloves shall be worn during procedures where there will be a significant blood and body fluid exposure or situations where gloves will be worn for an extended period of time (i.e. > 15 minutes).

Examples include:

- Handling blood saturated dressings
- Cleaning up a blood spill
- Handling blood saturated linen

For cytotoxic chemical handling and waste exposure please refer to:

http://fhpulse/workplace_health_safety/safety_and_prevention/Pages/CytotoxicHazardousDrugs.aspx

Information on Cytotoxic chemical handling for Health Service Providers is under review

Latex

Latex gloves should be avoided as use increases latex allergy risk for both residents and staff.

Non-disposable rubber gloves

Non disposable gloves are only acceptable for cleaning in non-care areas with the exception of public washrooms.

Heavy duty gloves are recommended if the task has a high risk for percutaneous injury (ie sorting linen, handling waste)

3.0 Appendices

IC5 O310 Appendix I Glove Removal

IC5 O320 Appendix II Glove Types

4.0 REFERENCES

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care settings. 2012

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Routine practices and additional precautions in all health care settings, 3rd edition. 2012

Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet). Best practices for hand hygiene in all healthcare settings and programs. 2012

Fraser Health Pamphlet; Exam Gloves: Guidelines for Care Providers, October 2011

Joint HSSBC and WorkPlace Health. Non-Sterile Examination Glove Selection Guide . December 2012

Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Best Practice Guidelines for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection. 2nd edition. May 2012