RISK ASSESSMENT – Glove Usage

ARE GLOVES REALLY NECESSARY?

Gloves are **NOT** required for procedures where there is minimal risk of cross-infection between patients and staff eg

- Basic care procedures without contact with blood or body fluids
- Transferring food from food trolleys to patient bedside
- Making uncontaminated beds/changing or removing patients’ uncontaminated clothing
- Taking recordings (BP, temperature, pulse)
- Closed entotracheal suction

Gloves **ARE** required for procedures where there is a risk of cross-infection between patients and staff and further risk assessment should be carried out.

IS THERE A HIGH-RISK OF EXPOSURE TO BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS?

- **NO**
- **YES**

IS A STERILE FIELD REQUIRED?

- **NON-STERILE VINYL**
- **STERILE VINYL**

Non-Theatre Environment:
- Sterile Nitrile

Theatre Environment:
- Elastyn
- Neoprene
- Nitrine
- Non-powdered low-protein latex
- Synthetic Polyisoprene
- Tactylon

Non-Sterile Nitrile or synthetic glove with equivalent barrier properties
GLOVE SELECTION – GUIDANCE

**TYPE OF ACTIVITY**

- **Cleaning**
  - Food Handling, Preparation, Serving
  - General Cleaning
    - ‘Colour Coded’ Marigolds
    - Isolation Room
      - Vinyl
      - Bloodborne virus exposure / spillage
        - Non-sterile Nitrile

- **Tasks where there is a low-risk of contamination, non-invasive clinical care, or environmental cleaning, eg:**
  - Oral care
  - Emptying catheter drainage bags
  - Emptying urinals / bedpans and suction jars
  - Handling low-risk specimens
  - Clinical cleaning
  - Dressing wounds when contact with blood / body fluids is unlikely eg gastrostomy dressings,
  - Endotracheal suction
  - Applying creams
  - Touching patients with unknown skin rash / scabies / shingles
  - Making beds / changing clothing of patients in isolation

- **Procedures involving high-risk of exposure to BBVs and where high-barrier protection is needed, eg:**
  - Potential exposure to blood / body fluids eg blood spillages, faecal incontinence, blood glucose monitoring, administering enemas / suppositories and rectal examinations
  - Handling cytotoxic material
  - Handling disinfectants
  - Venepuncture / cannulisation
  - Vaginal examination
  - Basic care and specimen collection procedures on patients know or suspected to be high-risk of BBV
  - Non-surgical dentistry / podiatry
  - Handling dirty/used instruments
  - Processing specimens in a laboratory

- **Procedures which require a sterile field and high-barrier protection, eg:**
  - Lumbar punctures
  - Liver biopsies
  - Clinical care to surgical wounds / drain sites
  - Procedures for neutropenic patients
  - Insertion of urinary catheters
  - Vaginal examination in obstetrics

- **All surgical and invasive radiological procedures**

- **Sterile Surgical Gloves:**
  - Elastryn
  - Neoprene
  - Nitrile
  - Non-powdered low-protein latex
  - Synthetic polyisoprene
  - Tactylon

- **All staff using latex gloves of any type will be required to participate in the OHS skin health surveillance programme.**