

IPC Bulletin for Staff providing Domiciliary Care (Care at Home)

Issue No. 12 – December 2018

Oh PPE, Oh PPE....

Personal protective equipment (PPE) protects both the service user and members of staff member from infection. Routine PPE includes disposable clinical gloves and a disposable plastic apron. Eye protection and face masks are not required for routine care. Eye protection should be considered when there is a risk of body fluids getting into the eyes, for example, a service user spitting.

Personal protective equipment is one of the 7 Standard Infection Prevention and Control Precautions. PPE should always be made available to staff at the point of care. The level of PPE should be assessed for each task and based on the following:

- The risk of micro-organisms (germs) spreading to service users and staff
- The risk of soiling to clothing or uniform
- The risk of blood or other bodily fluids contaminating your skin, eyes, nose or mouth

Gloves and aprons should:

- Be provided to staff and easily accessible
- Be single use items and disposable
- Be used when providing direct hands on care and there is a risk of exposure to blood and other bodily fluids
- Be changed between each care task
- Not be kept in staff pockets
- Not be considered as an alternative for hand washing or washed themselves

Hand hygiene should always be performed before putting on PPE and after it has been removed. If there is a chance that hands may have been contaminated with blood or body fluids, hands should always be washed with soap and warm running water.

Putting on and removing PPE

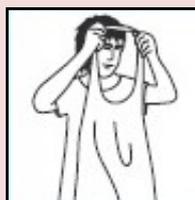
The controlled application and removal of PPE is really important to minimise the risk of cross-infection and self-contamination.

It is likely that gloves will be the most contaminated piece of PPE, therefore, gloves should always be **removed** first.

Putting on PPE

Apron first then gloves.

Pull apron over head and fasten at back of waist.



Extend gloves to cover wrists.



Removing PPE

Gloves first then apron.



Grasp the outside of the glove with opposite gloved hand, peel off. Hold the removed glove in the gloved hand. Slide the fingers of the ungloved hand under the remaining glove at the wrist and peel off.



Unfasten or break apron ties. Pull apron away from neck and shoulders lifting over head, touching inside of the apron only. Fold or roll into a bundle.

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk 01423 557340