

# IPC Bulletin for GP Practice staff

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To support General Practice staff, here is some information on good infection prevention and control (IPC) practice.

## 'Glove Awareness' and 'Hand Hygiene'

Between 25 February, 2020, to 31 March, 2022, a staggering 12.7 billion gloves were sent for use in the NHS and social care in England alone (Royal College of Nursing 2022)

The manufacturing of gloves contributes to environmental pollution and climate change.

Avoiding overuse or inappropriate use of PPE is a key principle that ensures this is risk-based and minimises its environmental impact.

### Gloves must be:

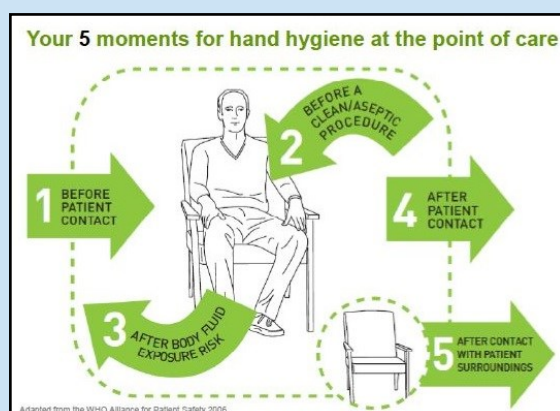
- Worn when exposure to blood and/or other body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes is anticipated or likely
- Changed immediately after each patient and/or after completing a procedure/task even on the same patient
- Changed if a perforation or puncture is suspected
- Appropriate for use, fit for purpose and well-fitting
- Never decontaminated with alcohol handrub or liquid soap between use
- Sterile when performing aseptic technique or urinary catheterisation
- Low risk of causing sensitisation to the wearer
- Appropriate for the tasks being undertaken, taking into account the substances being handled, type and duration of contact, size and comfort of the gloves, and the task and requirement for glove robustness and sensitivity

NHS England, January 2023 *National infection prevention and control manual for England*

- Glove use is **NOT** a replacement for performing hand hygiene.
- Follow WHO's 'Your 5 moments of hand hygiene'.
- Alcohol handrubs are suitable unless hands are visibly dirty or soiled, or when caring for patients with vomiting and/or diarrhoea.
- Patients should be encouraged to wash their hands or use skin wipes after using the toilet and before eating and drinking.
- It is best practice to be 'Bare below the elbows'.
- All staff should have training on hand hygiene, e.g. annually.

### World Hand Hygiene Day 5 May 2023

[www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day](http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day)



### What's new

- National IPC manual for England, January 2023 version 2.4
- Save the date: One day IPC training event for General Practice - 26th June, 2023 and 13th November, 2023

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.  
[www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk](http://www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk)

Call us on 01423 557340.

