

	POLICIES & PROCEDURES Number: 20-30 Title: Gloves
Authorization: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHR Infection Prevention & Control Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Facility Board of Directors	Source: Infection Prevention & Control Date Initiated: June 5, 2001 Date Reaffirmed: June, 2003 Date Revised: October, 2006 Scope: SHR Agencies & Affiliates

Introduction

The use of gloves is not a substitute for hand hygiene. Hands can become contaminated through glove defects or during glove removal. Transmission of infectious agents between patients has occurred when health care workers did not change gloves between patients. Failure to remove gloves after patient care may result in contamination of the environment.

Policy

1. Health care workers will use Standard Precautions which require the use of appropriate personal protective equipment when direct contact with blood, body fluids, secretions, excretions, mucous membranes, non-intact skin and contaminated items is anticipated.
2. Selection of gloves shall be based on the type of procedure being done, likelihood of exposure to body fluid, length of use and, amount of stress on the glove.
3. Health care worker will wear gloves when open lesions are present on hands.

Purpose

1. To reduce the risk of transmission of disease-producing microorganisms from one individual to another.
2. To reduce the risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin and contaminated environmental equipment.
3. To protect the wearer from harmful chemicals and disinfectants.

Procedure

1. Clean non-sterile disposable gloves:
 - Are one-use only.
 - Latex and non-latex gloves are available in small, medium and large sizes.
 - Are changed between contact with different body parts/procedures on the same patient and after contact with each patient.
 - Are removed promptly after use, before touching clean items and environmental surfaces.
 - Perform hand hygiene immediately following glove removal to avoid transfer of microorganisms to other patients or environments.
 - Disposable, single-use gloves **should not** be washed, cleansed with an alcohol hand sanitizer or used with petroleum-based hand creams.
 - Wear gloves when open skin lesions are present on hands.
 - Cotton liners are available to reduce skin irritation.
2. Sterile disposable gloves:
 - Are one-use only.
 - Are available in latex and non-latex and varying sizes from 5½ to 9.
 - Worn for procedures where hands or instruments being handled are entering normally sterile body cavities or tissue.
3. Household gloves:
 - May be disinfected and reused by the same person.
 - Should be discarded when cracked or have holes.
4. For proper removal of gloves, refer to Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – Donning and Removal.

References

1. Health Canada. *Infection control guidelines. Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in health care.* CCDR 1999; 25S4: 24-26,35,48,53-54,64,70,71.