

Recommendations for glove use in health care setting.

- Decontaminate hands before donning sterile gloves.
- Decontaminate hands after removing gloves.
- Wear gloves when contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials, mucous membranes & non intact skin could occur.
- Remove gloves after caring for patient. Do not wear the same pair of gloves for the care of more than one patient, and do not wash the gloves between uses with different patients.
- Change gloves during patient care if moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site.

*Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)
Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Oct 25th, 2002/vol.51/no. RR-16*

Hygienic hand washing or alcoholic hand rubs

- Before & after nursing the patient
- Before performing invasive procedures
- Before caring for susceptible patients (such as immunocompromised)
- Before & after touching wounds, urethral catheters & other indwelling devices
- **BEFORE & AFTER WEARING GLOVES**
- After contact with blood secretions or else following situations in which microbial contamination is likely to have occurred
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*International Federation of Infection Control
Infection Control: Basic Concepts & Practices, 2nd Edition*

Important note

Gloves should not be used as a substitute for hand hygiene. A glove is not always a complete impermeable barrier (20-30% of surgical gloves are punctured during surgery) However, gloves reduce substantially the number of micro organisms being transferred to the patient or to the HCW who is wearing the gloves.

The Over Use Of Gloves

Doebbeling et al. demonstrated that significant numbers of bacterial pathogens could still be recovered from the hands of hospital personnel after contaminated gloves were removed. In addition, gloves are often bacterially contaminated when extracted from their package by the unwashed hands of HCWs. Thus the use of gloves for all patient contact would not be the sole solution as hand washing would be necessary anyway.