

# **Gloves, Hand Hygiene and You**

## ***Considerations with Gloves***

**The use of gloves does not replace the need for hand hygiene.** Several studies provide evidence that wearing gloves can help reduce transmission of pathogens in healthcare settings. However, gloves do not provide complete protection against hand contamination

The barrier integrity of gloves varies on the basis of type and quality of glove material, intensity of use, length of time used and, manufacturer. Gloves may be adversely affected by petroleum-based hand lotions or creams.

Gloves are not completely free of leaks and tears/punctures can occur. Hands should be cleaned before donning gloves and after glove removal. Gloves should be removed immediately and discarded after the activity for which they were used and before exiting the environment of a patient. Disposable gloves should not be washed or re-used. Gloves should never be re-worn between patients.

To reduce hand irritation related to gloves:

- a) wear gloves for as short a time as possible
- b) clean and dry hands before donning gloves and after glove removal; and
- c) wear gloves that are clean and dry inside.

## ***Recommendations:***

- ***Gloves should not be used in place of proper hand hygiene.***
- ***Hand hygiene should be performed before donning gloves and after glove removal.***
- ***Dry hands completely before donning gloves.***
- ***Wear gloves when it is anticipated that the hands will be in contact with mucous membranes, non intact skin or bodily fluids.***
- ***The same pair of gloves should not be used for the care of more than one patient.***
- ***Gloves should be put on immediately before the activity for which they are indicated.***
- ***Gloves should be removed immediately and discarded after the activity for which they were used.***
- ***Gloves should be changed or removed when moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site within the same patient.***
- ***Gloves should be changed or removed after touching a contaminated environmental surface.***
- ***Disposable gloves should not be cleaned or re-used***
- ***Never wear gloves outside a patient room or bedspace unless transporting contaminated items or when cleaning spills of blood or bodily fluids.***