Appropriate glove usage

**Why do we use gloves?**

* To protect our hands from contamination of bodily fluids
* To minimise spread of organisms (cross-contamination) from an infectious patient
* To protect our hands from irritant substances
* To keep medical devices sterile/reduce cross-contamination

**In which situations should gloves be worn?**

**Gloves OFF**

* Vacuuming
* Feeding a patient
* Talking to a patient
* Pushing a bed or wheelchair
* Answering the phone
* Writing patients’ notes
* Brushing a patient’s hair
* Making a bed
* Giving a drink

(All of the above presume there is no contamination with body fluids)

**Gloves ON**

* Body fluid spillage
* Handling specimens
* Tracheostomy care
* Catheter care
* Contact with an infectious patient
* Using irritant substances/cleaning products
* Sterile/clean medical procedures
* Mouthcare
* Continence care

A pair of blue gloves

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**GLOVES MUST BE CHANGED AND HANDS WASHED/CLEANED AFTER EACH INTERVENTION**

**Hand hygiene- 5 key moments**

Before patient contact- After patient contact- Before sterile procedures- After bodily fluid exposure- After contact with patient surroundings