

IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

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Clean your hands day—5th May 2019 HAND HYGIENE

The practical and evidenced based approach with demonstrated impact on quality of care and patient safety across all levels of the health care system.

Achieving
'Universal health coverage (UHC) for all'.

Coinciding with World Hand Hygiene Day, the Royal College of Nursing are hosting a week of action to raise awareness about hand care and glove use.

Look after your hands!

- Approximately 1,000 healthcare workers develop contact dermatitis.
- Damaged skin provides opportunities for micro-organisms to be transferred between patients and staff.
- Skin lesions can become colonised by bacteria, potentially leading to infection.
- Prolonged contact with water or wearing gloves for extended periods, prevent sweat evaporation, which leads to the skin becoming over hydrated.
- The chemicals or substances used to manufacture gloves can irritate the skin and can disturb the skins PH balance, which can also increase the risk of work related dermatitis.
- Practice the correct handwashing technique.
- Dry hands thoroughly after handwashing, using disposable paper towels.
- Use an emollient hand cream during work and when off duty.
- Do not use or provide communal tubs of hand cream.
- Staff with skin problems should seek advice from Occupational Health/GP.

Be glove aware!

Gloves on?

- When in contact with blood/body fluid, non-intact skin, or mucous membranes.
- When in contact with chemical hazards such as disinfectants, preserving agents or cytotoxic drugs.
- Only when hands are thoroughly dry (post-hand washing or alcohol rub) to reduce risk of dermatitis.

Gloves off?

- As soon as gloves are suspected to be damaged.
- When no longer in contact with blood/body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes.
- When a single aspect of patient care/treatment has ended (e.g. gloves may be required to empty a urinary catheter before providing mouth care).
- When it's necessary to carry out effective hand hygiene.
- When contact with chemicals has ended.

rcn.org.uk/glove-aware

In collaboration with

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources,
many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

or call 01423 557340