

# Do's & Don'ts

## DO'S AND DON'TS FOR WEARING GLOVES IN THE HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENT

### Types of gloves encountered in the healthcare setting

#### STERILE GLOVES

Indicated for performing any sterile procedure including but not limited to vaginal delivery, invasive radiological procedure, central vascular device dressing change, and accessing implanted central venous access ports.



#### NON-STERILE GLOVES

(e.g., nitrile, latex, medical vinyl)

Indicated in situations when there is potential for contact with infectious material (e.g., blood, other body fluids, microorganisms).



#### NON-MEDICAL GLOVES

(e.g., vinyl)

May be used for food handling and some housekeeping procedures (e.g., cleaning and disinfection).



#### UTILITY GLOVES

(e.g., facility, maintenance, central sterile processing)

Used for manual cleaning of instruments and decontamination with harsh chemicals.



### Do

- ✓ **DO** wear gloves to reduce the risk of contamination or exposure to blood, other body fluids, hazardous materials, and transmission of infection.
- ✓ **DO** clean hands before putting on gloves for a sterile procedure (e.g., insertion of catheter or other invasive device).
- ✓ **DO** clean hands after removing gloves.
- ✓ **DO** clean hands and change gloves between each task (e.g., after contact with a contaminated surface or environment).
- ✓ **DO** make sure that gloves fit you properly before performing any tasks.
- ✓ **DO** ensure the correct type of glove is available if you have skin sensitivity or allergy issues.
- ✓ **DO** wear gloves in hemodialysis settings for any contact with the patient or the patient's equipment.
- ✓ **DO** follow your facility's policy on glove use and remember to consult CDC\* and WHO\* hand hygiene guidance.

### Don't

- ✗ **DON'T** re-use or wash gloves (except for utility gloves after being properly cleaned).
- ✗ **DON'T** substitute glove use for hand hygiene.
- ✗ **DON'T** use non-approved hand lotions.
- ✗ **DON'T** use gloves if they are damaged or visibly soiled.
- ✗ **DON'T** touch your face when wearing gloves.
- ✗ **DON'T** wear the same pair of gloves from one patient to another.
- ✗ **DON'T** wear gloves in the hall; consult your facility's policy for exceptions.
- ✗ **DON'T** forget to remove and dispose of gloves properly.