



Department
of Health &
Social Care



The
Queen's
Nursing
Institute

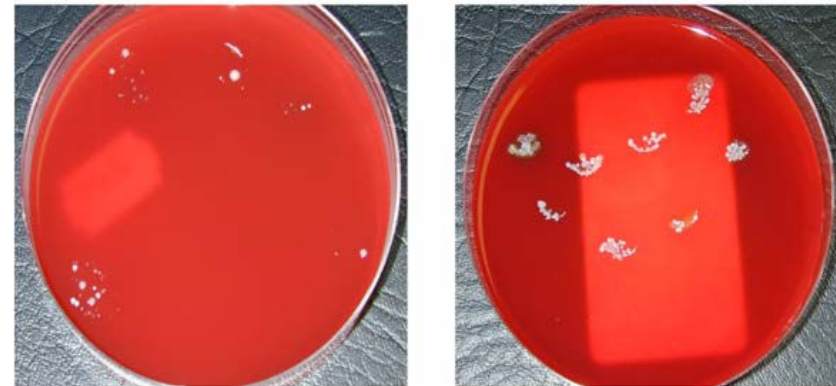
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Champion Network meeting

SUMMARY

'To Glove or Not to Glove'

Tuesday 13 August
2-3.30pm, via Zoom

Short nails v Long nails



1. Chair's Welcome

Charlotte Fry, RN, DN, QN, Expert Lead Nurse, IPC Champions Network; @cfry_

- Welcome to everyone, good to see you all.
- As you know the IPC Champions Network is for nurses and colleagues working in adult social care settings - we now have over 2100 members in the IPC Network, if you would like to join, please go to: <https://qni.org.uk/nursing-in-the-community/infection-prevention-and-control-champions/>
- For IPC resources visit: <https://qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-champions-meeting/>
- We have an excellent agenda today with amazing speakers who will speak to us about hand hygiene and glove use. Thank you to all of them for giving of their time and expertise.
- If you have any ideas or requests for themes for future meetings, please don't hesitate to email me at charlotte.fry@qni.org.uk



2. Hand Hygiene: gloves on or off?

Gillian Partridge, IPC Team Leader, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

History of hand hygiene

- The 'Father of Hand Hygiene' was Ignaz Semmelweis a physician who worked in a maternity hospital with two wards: one managed by medical staff and one by midwives. In 1846 he noticed that the clinicians' ward had a higher rate of deaths, in those days caused by maternal fever (sepsis nowadays).
- He noticed that the medical doctors who were doing autopsies to find out more about how the body works would then go straight from the morgue to the maternal ward and deliver babies without washing their hands. It was very low death rate for the midwives who weren't doing autopsies.
- He influenced hand washing - dramatically reduced deaths in babies and became a pioneer of hand washing.

Evolution of Standard Infection Control Precautions (SICPs)

- Early 1980s: Universal Precautions introduced in CDC in US in response to HIV
- 1996: Introduction of 7 Standard Precautions: hand hygiene, PPE, sharps management, blood and body fluid spillage management, waste management, laundry and decontamination of equipment.
- 2008-2022: introduction of Health and Social Care Act and introduction of Epic 3- national evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare associated infections in hospitals in England.





2. Hand Hygiene: gloves on or off?

Gillian Partridge, IPC Team Leader, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

Evolution cont.

- In March 2019 NHS England made changes to SICPs where 7 became 10:
 1. Hand Hygiene
 2. PPE
 3. Respiratory cough and hygiene* (new)
 4. Patient placement and assessment of risk* (new)
 5. Safe disposal of waste
 6. Safe management of bloody and body fluids
 7. Safe management of care equipment
 8. Safe management of linen
 9. Safe management of sharps and inoculation injuries
 10. Safe management of care environment * (new)
- What strikes me looking at that list is how pivotal those new 3 were, so important in responding to Covid, it really brought home how important it was to managing the pandemic.

Hand Hygiene

- up to 80% of healthcare related infections are transmitted via the hands of healthcare staff
- most common cause of transmission of bacteria is via our hands

2. Hand Hygiene: gloves on or off?

Gillian Partridge, IPC Team Leader, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

Hand Hygiene

- 5 moments of hand hygiene
 1. Before touching a resident/service user
 2. Before clean/aseptic procedures
 3. After body fluid exposure
 4. After touching a resident/service user
 5. After touching a resident's/service user's surroundings
- Can you name the 5 moments of hand hygiene? It's a great test for staff. You can put these on your lanyards as a reminder.

Bare beneath the elbows

- National standard
- Ensures correct hand hygiene technique can be done effectively
- Promotes resident/service user confidence in staff
- But why? See photos right showing difference between bacteria grown under short nails vs long nails



2. Hand Hygiene: gloves on or off?

Gillian Partridge, IPC Team Leader, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

Bacteria grown from false nails/watch/rings



- One care home was quite inventive, they bought a false nail removal kit, as normally you would require to go to a salon to have them removed.
- It makes sense not to wear watches either, they gather a lot of bacteria and prevent good hand hygiene too.

Alcohol handrub vs liquid soap and water

- Use alcohol handrub to decontaminate your hands if your hands are not visibly dirty
- Wash your hands with liquid soap and warm running water if you hands are visibly dirty; you've been wearing gloves or if you're looking after a resident/service user with diarrhoea or viral gastroenteritis

2. Hand Hygiene: gloves on or off?

Gillian Partridge, IPC Team Leader, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

- There are new products on the market which can destroy these kinds of CDiff bacteria but they're not currently on the national IPC manual, Scotland has now added it to their hand hygiene section, but it's something that could change here, at the moment it's still soap and water.

Hand hygiene technique

- We should have hand hygiene technique posters by all sinks. When new staff start, give them an induction card on why hand hygiene is important and have them watch you doing hand hygiene and test them.
- We have blacklights and glowing lotions and they show you the areas you're missing. It's worth checking with the IPC team if they have black lights, even a torch, they're quite cheap on Amazon.

Hand hygiene audit

- These audits ensure compliance with your hand hygiene policy
- All staff should be assessed at least annually
- Completed audit tools should be kept locally for good practice assurance for CQC inspections

Caring for your hands

- Always wet your hands before applying liquid soap (putting soap on dry skin can damage the integrity of skin)
- You only need one press of the dispenser - make sure you rinse and dry hands thoroughly
- Moisturise regularly



2. Hand Hygiene: gloves on or off?

Gillian Partridge, IPC Team Leader, Harrogate & District NHS Foundation Trust

The impact of gloves

- Gloves are fundamental to PPE, only to be worn when a risk to your health and safety is present
- Inappropriate use of gloves carries risk of infection/skin irritation; and for the environment: made from plastic derived from oil which contributes to climate change
- Gloves produced outside the UK travel thousands of miles emitting a range of greenhouse gases.

Glove Facts

- Over 5 billion gloves are used in the NHS and social care in England alone each year
- Next time you put on glove, stop and think: DO I REALLY NEED A PAIR OF GLOVES?
- Gloves are essential for some tasks: when in contact with blood and/or bodily fluid, mucous membranes and harmful drugs or chemicals
- Sometimes skin to skin contact with resident can be an invaluable source of comfort and connection, gloves can be a barrier to this.
- Gloves are not needed when helping residents/service users to stand, mobilise, eat or drink.
- Remember ask yourself: is there a risk to me? If so, wear gloves, if not, don't. 'If it's wet and sticky and not yours, wear gloves!
- Gloves do not replace hand hygiene.
- Watch the Invisible Challenge, Spread of Bacteria video (2 minutes 12) here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9R8fHo6WfzY>

3. Gloves off campaign

Jo-Anne Wilson, Registered Manager, Royal British Legion

- I'm a registered nurse and manager of a care home with 101 beds.

Our care home

- There is a higher proportion of male residents (because of the Royal Legion), a lot of ex-service and dependants
- We offer respite and day club, we have GSF Platinum status and CQC Outstanding - we're seen as a community hub too which I'm passionate about: we have a veteran breakfast club and a dementia cafe.

Gloves off campaign

- This campaign came after our 'Galanos Goes Green' campaign. We have a very active team, looking at green /reduction of waste, we've worked on many projects, from electricity saving to reducing plastics.
- When we look at it, gloves are the most common single use item in healthcare.
- 1.7 billion gloves used before the pandemic and it's increased so much since - if stretched out it would go to the moon.
- There are also ethical issues: child exploitation in manufacturing of healthcare goods globally (for example, healthcare uniforms made by children in India)
- Gloves are not biodegradable, they can take up to 200 years plus to degrade



3. Gloves off campaign

Jo-Anne Wilson, Registered Manager, Royal British Legion

- When we looked at our glove usage, we remembered we're a home, not a hospital
- We saw how much we overused gloves: some people had them on all the time. Some people were even still double gloving which is a big no no.
- The evidence shows that actually in all circumstances gloves aren't always needed and hand hygiene far more important.

Skin Conditions

- Sometimes people do have poor skin, wearing gloves can cause skin issues. Wearing gloves in hot weather makes hands sweat and makes them sore and can start dermatitis. If you have cracked skin, it won't help it heal.

Outcomes

- We do spot checks and hygiene audits - it's about having that on the spot training.
- We created a training package (see below) it was free, a 2 hour session and the objective was to make staff feel more confident about when and where wear gloves.
- We had a whole hands themed month.
-
-



to

3. Gloves off campaign

Jo-Anne Wilson, Registered Manager, Royal British Legion

- We tackled perceptions of wearing gloves, such as 'gloves will protect me' or 'it looks more professional wearing gloves'. It's challenging those thoughts that are legacies of Covid. Questioning whether you need gloves at each moment.
- Pre gloves off campaign, we were ordering 500 plus boxes of gloves, now we ordering 25 boxes plus marigolds.
- We have seen a reduction in dermatitis and skin conditions.
- We've helped our greener outcomes, waste has been reduced. Costs have come down.
- IPC standards are improving, champions are reinforcing it.
- Our next aim is looking at recyclable compostable gloves, at the moment it's not yet the norm but it soon might be.
- For us the whole campaign has been very positive, this has included the feedback we have received from the families.

Thank you to all delegates who attended the IPC meeting.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 22 October 2024, 2-4 pm.

Theme

The theme of the event will be 'National Policy & Guidance Updates'.

We are delighted that Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, from DHSC will be joining us!

Speakers:

- Professor Chris Whitty, Chief Medical Officer, DHSC
- Professor Deborah Sturdy, Chief Nurse Adult Social Care, DHSC
- Joanne Harris, Head of Infection, Prevention and Control, UKHSA

More information will be available here:

<https://qni.org.uk/news-and-events/events/infection-prevention-and-control-ipc-champions-meeting/>

