

JAM Session 16: Gloves Are Not Hand Hygiene - Use Them Right



Gloves are for tasks-not for travel.
Clean hands-not gloves-move through the hospital.

Why This Matters:

Recent observations showed staff wearing gloves in hallways and during transport—even when:

- Gloves were **clean**
- No contact with body fluids was anticipated

This practice does not meet CDC/CMS expectations.

DO's and DON'Ts of Glove Use

- ◆ **DO** Use gloves only when indicated:
 - ◆ Anticipated contact with blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin, or contaminated items.
- ◆ **DO** perform hand hygiene before and after glove use
- ◆ **DO** use one patient, one task, one pair of gloves
- ◆ **DO** change gloves between tasks on the same patient if moving from dirty → clean
- ◆ **DO** remove gloves immediately after task completion
- ◆ **DO** remove gloves that have torn, became heavily soiled, or contaminated → remove, perform hand hygiene, replace
- ◆ **DON'T** substitute gloves for hand hygiene
- ◆ **DON'T** wear gloves in hallways or for general activities (e.g., transporting patients, using computers, opening doors)
- ◆ **DON'T** reuse or wash glove
- ◆ **DON'T** carry gloves from one patient/environment to another
- ◆ **DON'T** touch your face, mask, phone, or clean surfaces while wearing gloves.

Transport-Specific Guidance

During Routine transport:

- **✗ No gloves**
- Perform hand hygiene

During Transport of Patient on Contact or Special Contact Precautions:

- Remove PPE before leaving room
- Perform hand hygiene
- Transport with clean hands
- If patient contact is needed during transport:
Perform hand hygiene → don gloves
→ complete task → remove → hand hygiene

Special Transport Situation: Labor / Active Body Fluids

Gloves **ARE** appropriate if exposure to fluids is expected **BUT:**

- Avoid contaminating environment
- Change/remove gloves when soiled
- Perform hand hygiene