



## The gloves are off: Safer in our hands.

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# Aims of presentation

- Discuss the glove awareness campaign that took place at GOSH starting in April 2018
- Understand the key factors driving local change at GOSH
- How we went about the change
- Our progress so far

# Why was it important to look at glove usage?

- Closely linked with hand hygiene
- Management of skin issues and contact dermatitis
- Updated of the RCN national guidance 'Tools of the Trade: Guidance for Health Care Staff on Glove Use and the Prevention of Contact Dermatitis'
- Follow on from published guidance from the RCN in 2016 on 'Standards for Infusion Therapy'
- High volume of nitrile glove use – GOSH + beyond!



# Why do we wear gloves?

If you are wearing gloves to protect your patient – they should be sterile as it has been found that nonsterile disposable gloves could be contaminated with a wide range of bacteria, including spore-forming agents.

(Berthelot et al, 2006)

Why do we wear non-sterile gloves?- they should only be worn where direct contact with body fluids, non-intact skin or mucous membranes is anticipated.

(Wilson, Loveday, 2014)

# Did you know...?

The use of non-sterile gloves has been associated with a significant potential for cross-contamination and transmission of HAIs. This is because they are often used when they aren't needed, put on too early, taken off too late or not changed at critical points.

(Wilson, Loveday, 2017)

Research shows that patients often feel uncomfortable with inappropriate use of gloves for personal tasks.

(Wilson, Bak et al, 2017 )

# The Change

1. All staff to risk assess when they are using gloves and aprons
2. To promote not using gloves for IV preparation and administration (but to risk assess this)

A year later our next steps were then to:

1. Risk assess if you need gloves when caring for a patient who is in isolation precautions. Gloves are only needed if you are going to be in contact with a bodily fluid, mucus membrane.

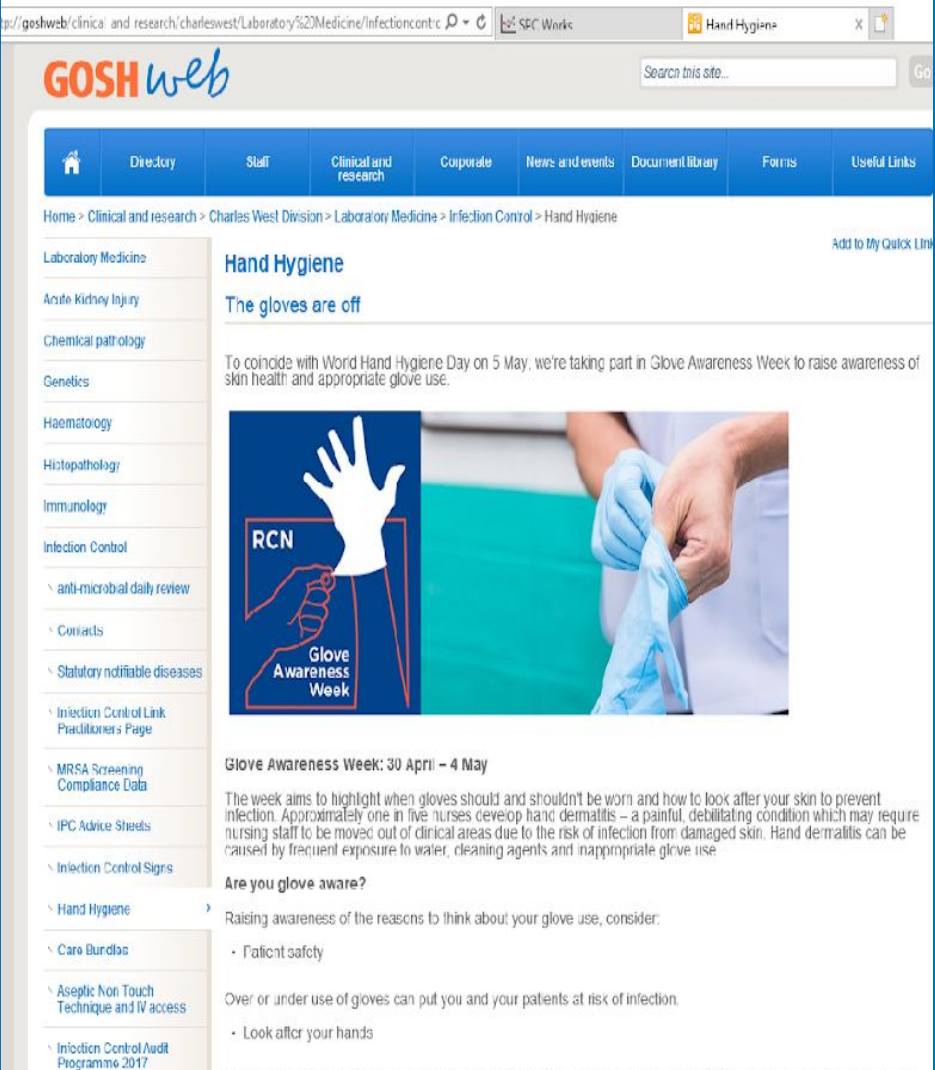
Focus on good hand hygiene!

# Initial Implementation

- Clear aims
- Working group
- Trust buy into our change
- Guidelines
- Communication strategies
- Patient and Parent engagement

# Resources for staff

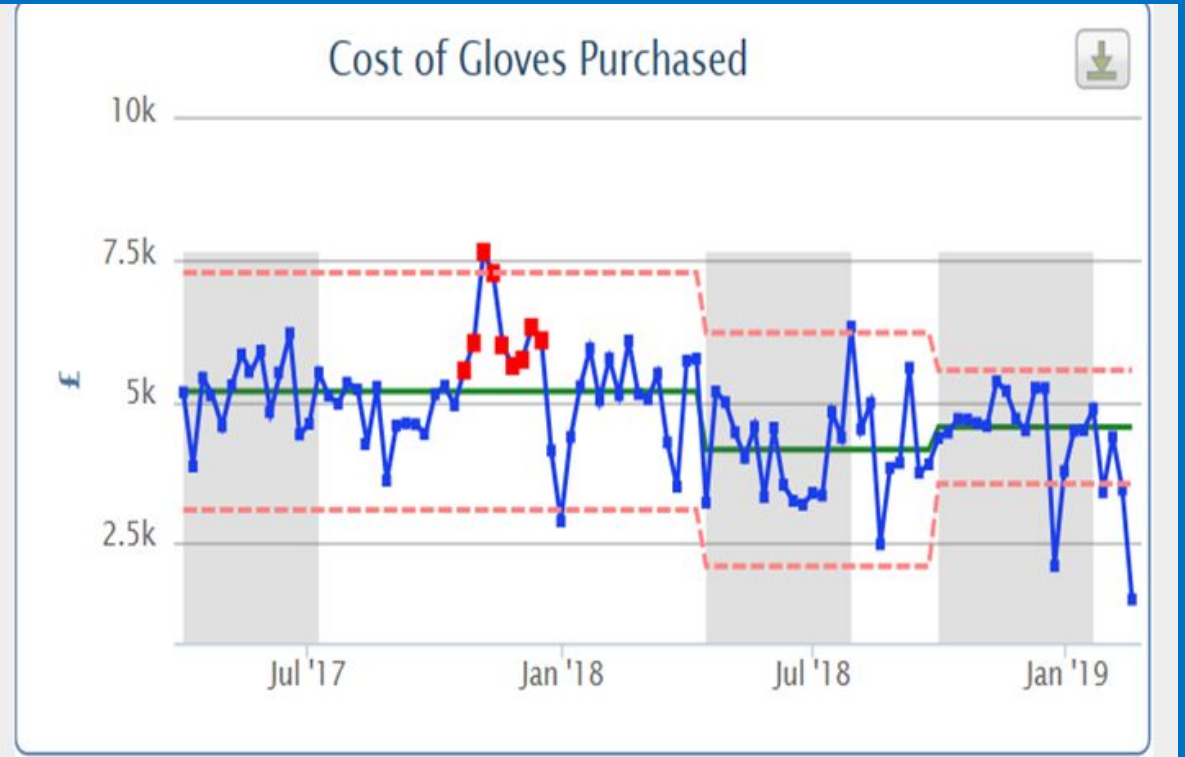
- PowerPoint presentation
- Discussions and training with groups of staff
- Further teaching for hospital school, cleaners, porters & AHP
- List of medications that gloves should be work for available/ risk assessment matrix as part training
- FAQ
- Webpage for staff with resources on
- Screensavers/posters
- Hand hygiene event 4<sup>th</sup> May



The screenshot shows the GOSH web portal. The main content area is titled "Hand Hygiene" and has a sub-heading "The gloves are off". The text below reads: "To coincide with World Hand Hygiene Day on 5 May, we're taking part in Glove Awareness Week to raise awareness of skin health and appropriate glove use." Below this is an image of hands being washed. To the left of the image is a graphic with the text "RCN Glove Awareness Week". Below the image is the text "Glove Awareness Week: 30 April – 4 May". The text continues: "The week aims to highlight when gloves should and shouldn't be worn and how to look after your skin to prevent infection. Approximately one in five nurses develop hand dermatitis – a painful, debilitating condition which may require nursing staff to be moved out of clinical areas due to the risk of infection from damaged skin. Hand dermatitis can be caused by frequent exposure to water, cleaning agents and inappropriate glove use." Below this is the heading "Are you glove aware?" and the text "Raising awareness of the reasons to think about your glove use, consider:". A list of resources follows: "• Patient safety", "• Look after your hands". Below this is the text "Over or under use of gloves can put you and your patients at risk of infection." and another list: "• Look after your hands".



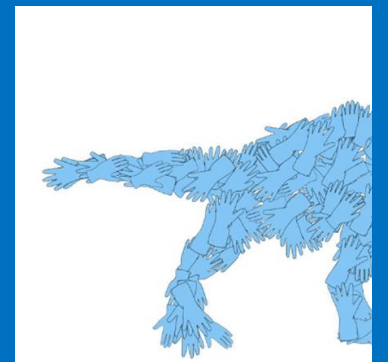
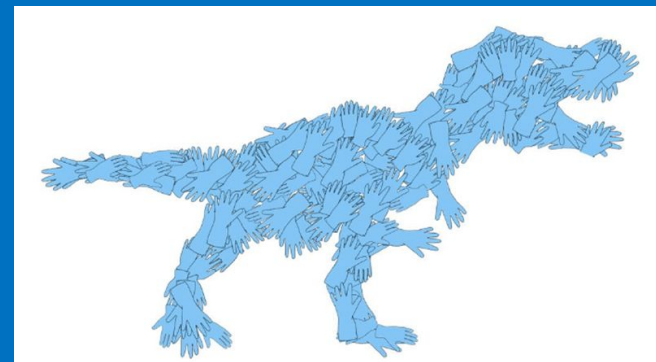
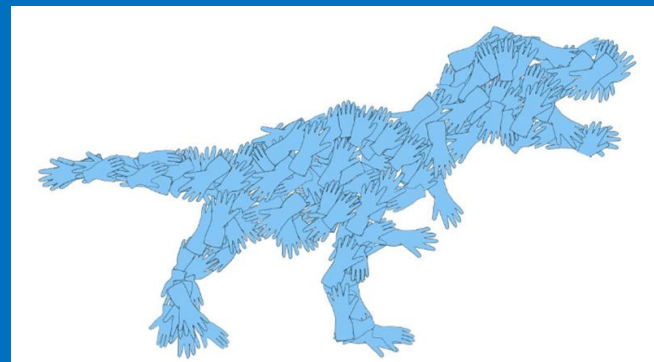
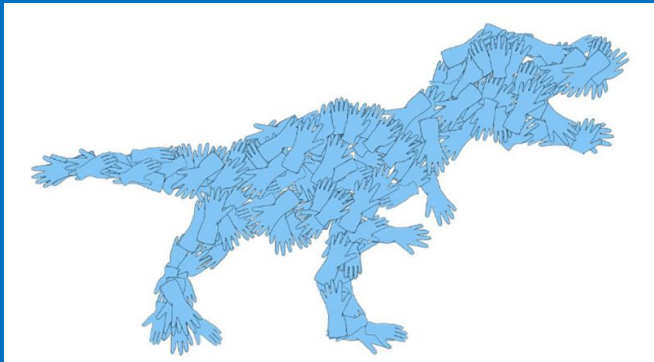
# What happened?



A reduction of approximately 4.3 million gloves from one year to the next.

# Savings

	Gloves (5g) 2017-18	Gloves (5g) April 2018- Feb 19	Total Reduction
Total amount of gloves ordered	11,145,600	6,816,740	4,328,860
Cost of gloves	£289,599.32	£181,269.60	£108,329.72
Amount of plastic generated/saved	55,728kg (55 tonnes)	34,083.7kg (34 tonnes)	21 tonnes reduced
Cost of glove disposal	£17,950.90	£16,422.00 *	£1,528.90



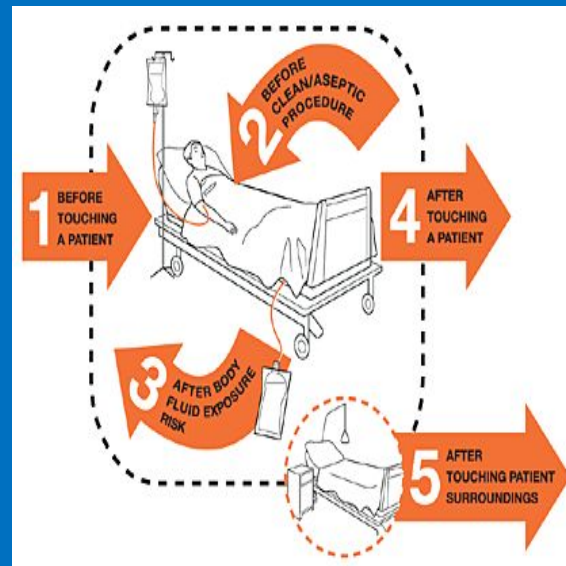
# Staff hands

Before this project this member of staff used to have dry, cracked hands and was questioning being able to continue nursing. Now her hands don't hurt anymore!



# Infection control

- To date we have had no change in hospital acquired infections as a result of the project.
- Improvement in adhering to the moments of hand hygiene?



# What happened next.

Risk assess if you need gloves when caring for a patient who is in isolation precautions.

Gloves are only needed if you are going to be in contact with a bodily fluid, mucus membrane.

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## Contact Precautions


To help us prevent the spread of infection

Everyone entering this room must:

-  Be 'bare below the elbows'
-  Clean their hands
-  Wear an apron\*

This applies whether or not contact with the patient or patient's environment is anticipated. Staff need to wear gloves in line with Standard Precautions.






\*Parents and visitors do not need to wear an apron, but must clean their hands on entering and leaving the room. ©2018 IPC Team, July 2018

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## Droplet and Airborne Precautions

To help us prevent the spread of infection

Everyone entering this room must:

-  Be 'bare below the elbows'
-  Clean their hands
-  Wear an apron
-  Wear a face mask\*
-  Keep the door closed

This applies whether or not contact with the patient or patient's environment is anticipated. Staff need to wear gloves in line with Standard Precautions.

\*Parents and visitors do not need to wear an apron, but must clean their hands on entering and leaving the room. They should check with the nurse if a face mask is required. ©2018 IPC Team, July 2018

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## Protective Isolation

To help us protect this child/young person from infection

Everyone entering this room must:

-  Be 'bare below the elbows'
-  Wash their hands
-  Wear an apron\*

This applies whether or not contact with the patient or patient's environment is anticipated. Staff need to wear gloves in line with Standard Precautions.

\*Parents and visitors do not need to wear an apron, but must clean their hands on entering and leaving the room. ©2018 IPC Team, July 2018

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## Protective Post-Transplant Isolation

To help us protect this child/young person from infection

Everyone entering this room must:

-  Be 'bare below the elbows'
-  Wash their hands
-  Wear an apron\*

This applies whether or not contact with the patient or patient's environment is anticipated. Staff need to wear gloves in line with Standard Precautions.

\*Parents and visitors do not need to wear an apron, but must clean their hands on entering and leaving the room. ©2018 IPC Team, July 2018

# Where are we now?



- ❖ Imagine you are a young person in hospital, and you start your first period, how do you feel?
- ❖ It is well known that having an operation can bring on a period.
- ❖ The hospital can't help you - there are no period products routinely stocked.
- ❖ You can't use your hands well because of your disability, so you can't manage your period

## These things happen in our hospital regularly. PLASTIC WASTE

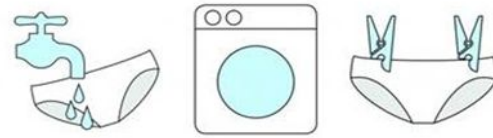
The average person who has periods will use **11,000** disposable period products in their lifetime.

Many products are 90% plastic, wrapped in plastic and containing chemicals which are bad for health and environment. Plastic does not disappear when disposed of but breaks into microplastics and is a huge source of ocean pollution.



**GOSH Climate and Health  
Emergency declaration  
Protecting our planet  
for our patients**

Occupational therapists were issuing period pants to support independence as anyone who can put on pants, can then manage their period.



- Period pants are reusable, can be washed and worn again and last over 3 years, with huge financial savings over disposables.
- Period poverty is now affecting over 1 million people in the UK.
- Environmentally using reusables means a large reduction to plastic waste heading to our oceans



## Information is power!

An **information leaflet** was drawn up to support our patients and staff with up-to-date information that is inclusive of people with disabilities who cannot use traditional products to enable independence, and for individuals who may prefer period pants that come in the style of boxers. This is now on GOSH internet pages.

Using the **pre-admission checklist on EPIC**, children over 8 years old are asked about their periods, told about anaesthetics unexpectedly inducing periods and directed to the website for information about sustainable products.

A **questionnaire** was put together available via QR code for feedback from young people and carers after using the pants with some great feedback.

### References

1. [Menstrual cup use, leakage, acceptability, safety and availability: a systematic review and meta-analysis](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(19)30111-2) : The Lancet Vol 4, Issue 8 August 01, 2019 E376-E393 Anna Maria van Eijk, Garazi Zulaika, Madeline Lenchner, Linda Mason, Muthusamy Sivakami, Elizabeth Nyothach et al. Open Access: **THE LANCET, Public Health** DOI: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(19\)30111-2](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(19)30111-2)
2. <https://www.actionaid.org.uk/blog/2022/05/18/period-poverty-statistics-around-world>
3. <https://www.bloodygoodperiod.com/>

## Conclusion

It is essential that our care is inclusive to all; this is a great example of using the triple bottom line of sustainable quality improvement to ensure inclusive affordable and environmentally friendly options are available to all.

It's a complete game changer! She is independent now.

I feel so good not having to ask my Mum to help.

I thought they would be horrible but they are really comfortable!

# References

Berthelot, P., Dietemann, J., Fascial P., Ros, A., Mallaval, O., Lucht, F., Pozzetto, B and Grattard, F. (2006) Bacterial contamination of nonsterile disposable gloves before use. *American Journal of Infection Control*. 34(3) pp 128-130

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Thank you for listening