



ISSUE 1: IN-SERVICE BRIEF

Double-Gloving

CURRENT EVIDENCE RELATED TO DOUBLE-GLOVING

Consider the current evidence, practice trends, and directives about glove integrity and double gloving:

- Unresolved level of non-compliance of healthcare workers (HCWs) in using personal protective equipment (PPE).¹
- Research confirming that when a glove breach occurs, a potential bi-directional transfer of pathogens can occur between the HCW and anything or anyone they touch.²
- Early studies on double gloving have shown to protect the surgeon's hands by the inner glove in 82% of the cases.³
- 2014 Cochrane Review reported a reduction of the number of perforations by 71% with two pairs of gloves versus one pair.⁴
- Surgical team members wearing two pairs of gloves reduced their risk of exposure and contracting a serious viral infection.⁴
- There is no negative impact on tactility with the use of double gloves.^{5,6}



RECOMMENDATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR DOUBLE-GLOVING

Guideline recommendations can conflict with research published due to the prolonged time between study completion and publication:

- This can create a delay in HCWs adopting best practices.
- Clinicians must therefore be current with and understand evolving research as well as product innovation.

DOUBLE-GLOVING DECISION MAKING

Considerations for double gloving compliance:

- Surgical glove attributes important to HCWs includes comfort, dexterity, ease of donning, fit and feel, flexibility, slippery, and tear resistance.¹
- Glove user must respect the risks present by not double gloving.
- HCWs should take part in discussions with infection control teams and ensure the current policies and procedures consider the requirements for the organization as well as the HCWs.
- Standardization of gloving practice is ideal.

References

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THE TWO-COLOR GLOVE SYSTEM AND POINTS FOR PRACTICE

The two-colored indicator system uses a pair of darker-colored inner gloves which act as an indicator of a breach occurring to the outer glove.⁴

- Moisture leaks through the breach in the outer glove allowing for easier visualization of the location of the perforation.
- The wearer is alerted sooner to the need for an immediate glove change.
- The incidence of glove change is higher in individuals who double-glove.⁷

PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

Maximise infection prevention practice to ensure patient and healthcare worker safety:⁸

- Routinely check for glove perforations.
- Double gloving should be common practice in all major cases.
- When you notice a perforation of the outer glove, change both layers of gloves.
- Experiment to find the right sizes and double-gloving combinations.
- Perform routine audits in monitoring compliance with PPE and glove recommendations.
- Review policies, protocols, and procedures to keep pace with the evolving evidence and technology.

