

Infection Prevention and Control

Toolbox Talk: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



Local Managers should communicate these key Infection Prevention and Control messages to their staff at handovers, staff meetings, huddles etc.

Introduction

- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a requirement of Health and Safety Legislation.
- It protects you (uniform/personal clothing) from direct contact with any potential blood/body fluid.
- Helps prevent onward transmission of harmful bacteria or viruses to the next patient.

Key Information: Examples of PPE;

- Aprons, Gloves, Fluid Repellent Surgical Facemasks (FRSMs)/FFP3 masks, Face visors.

When should we use it?

- If exposure to blood/body fluid is anticipated or contamination likely, including eye/face protection. This includes a risk of inhalation from an airborne pathogen. Currently FRSM masks are worn by all staff for the duration of their shift. The masks need to be changed if they become contaminated, damaged or moist.
- <https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/237161/ppe-checklist.pdf>

How do we wear it?

- Should be appropriate for the procedure or task.
- Changed between each patient and each new task on same patient. FFP3 masks should be well fitting (fit test required) Changed if moving from COVID-19 area to non COVID-19 area
- Enhanced PPE would be required for a highly contagious infectious disease (HCID)
- <https://www.nipcm.hps.scot.nhs.uk/appendices/appendix-11-best-practice-aide-memoire-for-optimal-patient-placement-and-respiratory-protective-equipment-rpe-for-infectious-agents-while-a-patient-is-in-hospital/>

Order of donning and doffing of PPE;

AGGA

- Aprons on
- Gloves on
- Gloves off
- Apron off

Facemask (if worn) should be removed last.

All PPE should be discarded into a clinical waste bin and hand hygiene should be undertaken.

Discussion/Scenarios

What PPE should you wear?

1. Q: When transferring a patient to scan?
 - **A; Nil required, unless risk of contamination likely on transfer, if respiratory TBPs in place, patient should wear a mask on transfer.**
2. Q: While disposing of macerator waste?
 - **A; Gloves and apron (are allowed in the corridor for this purpose).**
3. Q: While walking a patient back to room?
 - **A; Nil required unless risk of contamination.**
4. Q: For TBPs?
 - **A; yellow apron and gloves (and facemask if required).**
5. Q: While flushing an IV?
 - **A; Gloves and apron.**