

Appendix 1

1. Types of Protective Equipment

- 1.1** The following examples of PPE are not intended as an exhaustive list of PPE available or all circumstances in which PPE may be deemed necessary. All PPE provision must be based on an assessment of the risk(s) requiring control.

Please contact the Health & Safety Team if you require further advice on any aspects of PPE selection, management, or assessment.

1.2 Gloves

See NHS Fife Policy GP/G1-1 – Glove Selection Procedure.

1.3 Non-Clinical Hand and Arm Protection

Where identified as a requirement through the risk assessment process, hand and arm protection can be provided in the form of:

- gloves – hand only; gloves with a cuff – hand and wrist
- gauntlets / sleeves / long gloves – hand, wrist, and part of forearm
- sleeve / arm protection – part or whole of forearm and/ or upper arm

Examples of hazards that may require hand / arm protection include:

- protection from cuts and abrasions
- to keep hands warm in cold weather when operating machinery, to ensure manual dexterity is not lost, and that there is no reduction to blood supply to fingers
- danger from electrical hazards
- handling or coming into contact with chemicals – select gloves carefully for chemical resistance and protections (manufacturers will advise on break-through times for their products)
- welding procedures

Do not wear a glove for extended periods as this can lead to the development of excessive moisture (sweat) on the skin which can act as an irritant.

1.4 Aprons and Gowns

Aprons/ gowns must be worn when contamination might occur. In addition:

- Disposable, single-use plastic aprons must be worn when exposure to blood and other body fluids might occur. **Never** re-use single use disposable aprons/ gowns
- An impermeable gown, rather than a plastic apron, should be worn when there is a risk of significant splashing of body fluids, e.g. in theatre type settings/ during invasive procedures. There are many types of gowns available, and the most appropriate should be considered following local risk assessment, involving Infection Control staff, Occupational Health services and Procurement Departments.

1.5 Eye and Face Protection

Hazards that may require the use of eye and face protection include:

- liquid or chemical splashes
- flying debris when working with garden machinery or power tools
- dust, gas or liquid mist from machines, or any gas or vapour under pressure
- radiant heat, intense light, sparks, e.g. when working in hot conditions such as welding

Three main types of eye and face protection are available:

- Safety spectacles – these may have toughened glass or plastic lenses with plastic or metal frames. Lenses should not be removable as they could fall out. Most designs have side shields. Eye shields may fit over prescription glasses, while spectacles can incorporate corrective lenses
- Goggles – these have a flexible plastic frame with a flexible elastic headband. They give eye protection from all angles as the rim is in contact with the face. Some styles are unsuitable for use with gases, fine dusts, and liquids
- Shields – these can be handheld, strapped to the head to protect the face and eyes, or attached to a helmet. Most can be used with prescription glasses. They protect the face but do not fully enclose the eyes

1.6 Masks and Respiratory Protection:

Masks must be worn to protect mucous membranes of wearer during procedures where risk of splash or aerosol spray from blood, body fluid or chemicals is likely (including scrubbing of instruments).

Ensure masks are:

- close fitting
- changed if wet
- changed between operations or patients

Single use / disposable masks must be discarded as clinical waste, and never re-used.

Masks are also worn to protect staff from the transmission of infectious droplets during close contact with the symptomatic patients. See National Infection Prevention and Control Manual, Chapter 2.

Face fit testing for masks is a legal requirement under the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002. The regulations require the testing of tight-fitting face pieces (disposable masks, half and full face masks) where the performance of the face piece depends on good contact between the wearer's skin and the face seal of the mask.

Staff should be aware that beards or other facial hair will prevent a good seal between mask and the face. Tight fitting respiratory protection is therefore generally unsuitable for people with facial hair.

Powered Respirators do not supply oxygen so must not be used where oxygen concentration may be reduced.

1.7 Liquid Repellent Protective Clothing:

Staff at significant risk of exposure to blood / body fluids, require a uniform that includes fluid repellent material, greater body cover, and freedom of movement when working with patients.

A full risk assessment and business case must be carried out before suits can be ordered.

Suits will be maintained in accordance with each Manufacturer's instructions. Refer to NHS Fife's laundry bagging policy in relation to laundering of uniforms.

1.8 Foot Protection

Foot injuries may be caused by the following:

- Crushing caused by heavy objects falling onto part or all of the foot, e.g. oxygen cylinder falling onto foot;
- Foot penetration due to standing or walking onto a sharp object, e.g. nails left embedded in timber;
- Contact with irritant or corrosive chemicals, e.g. cement burns when pouring concrete.

Protective footwear should be strong enough to withstand the stresses placed upon it and have protected (steel) toecaps capable of resisting a heavy falling object. If there is any risk of a penetration injury, then the footwear should incorporate a steel mid-sole or similar armoring.

1.9 High Consequence Infectious Diseases (HCID)

Health Protection Scotland (HPS) in conjunction with Public Health (England) have specified 'enhanced PPE' for management of patients with HCID.

These infections include Viral Hemorrhagic Fever, Ebola, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), Avian Influenza, Covid and similar illnesses.

HPS have specified the necessary PPE required for management of patients who have or are suspected of having, these diseases.

Please contact Infection Prevention and Control Team or Health and Safety Team for further advice on this PPE.

1.10 Specialised PPE

More specialized PPE required for work with asbestos, lead, working in high noise areas or work at height are addressed in the relevant policies / procedures on the NHS Fife Intranet. If you require more advice on specialist PPE, please contact H&S Team.