



The
Queen's
Nursing
Institute

Sustainability in Adult Social Care WEBINAR:
Reducing the use of gloves and plastics

SUMMARY

Friday 22 March 2024
12 pm - 1pm, via Zoom

#GreenerNursesandMidwiferyWeek
#Sustainability



1. Chair's Welcome

Dr Amanda Young, QN, Director of Nursing Programmes, The QNI

- Welcome to everyone, sustainability is a hot topic nowadays, we hope you find this webinar helpful
- Today's theme is 'reducing the use of gloves and plastics' . Gloves are essential and crucial components of personal protective equipment, but their usage has surged dramatically – however the risks they safeguard against haven't increased at a similar pace. We look forward to hearing from Simone about sustainable alternatives.
- Thank you to our speaker, Simone, today for her time and expertise.
- We have resources, blogs and a new innovation programme on sustainability, visit the QNI web pages here: <https://qni.org.uk/sustainability/>



Reducing the use of gloves and plastics

Simone Harvey, Specialist Infection Prevention and Control Nurse, Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

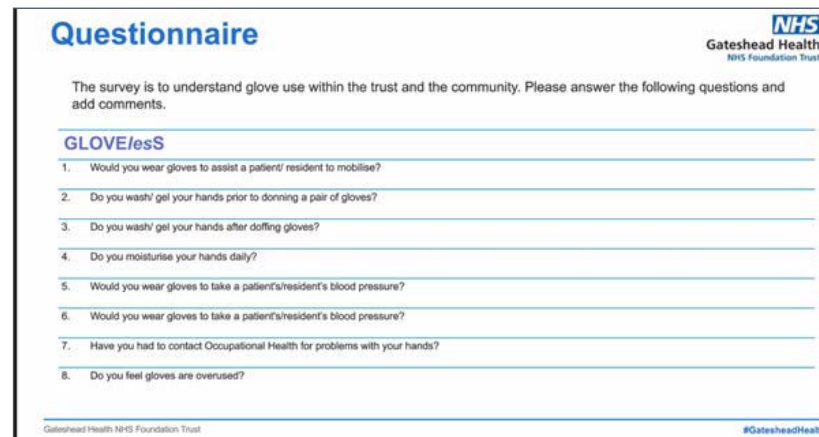
- We're an advisory support service to Gateshead, our teams are rapid response to GP practice, care homes and District Nurses
- We've recently done a gloveless campaign which I'll now tell you about
- First of all let me ask you a few questions about glove use: Do you wash your hands after doffing gloves? Most of you do, good. Do you moisturise your hands daily? Yes, that's great. Do you feel gloves use is overused? Most of you do, good. You'll see how these questions feed into the presentation.
- After Covid we thought we'd go back to basics, making sure we're washing our hands at the right time, having those 5 moments of hand hygiene and checking our techniques
- After coming out of Covid there was a governmental step down in guidance about removing PPE, but a lot of people were still wearing PPE and we wanted to reset that
- Right: a photo of me in full PPE before we knew how Covid spread.
- We wanted to go back to pre-Covid way of risk assessment of PPE



Reducing the use of gloves and plastics

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- So our aim was to reduce glove use, use gloves **less**, rather than gloves off, which is why we called the project, 'Gloveless'
- Our target audience was community business unit staff, care home staff and GP practice staff
- The campaign (see image below) aimed to reduce the inappropriate use of non sterile gloves - gloves are a crucial of IPC but they have to be used effectively
- We wanted to make sure that gloves were being used at the appropriate time, improve staff hand health, promote hand washing and improve patient safety
- Hand hygiene but also hand care was a big focus of the campaign.
- There's a massive cost to the environment as well as financial impact with regards to PPE, with manufacturing, transportation and waste
- We wanted also to align to the trust's Green Plan as well as reducing the amount of single use items
- We wanted to gauge glove use prior to the campaign so we sent out a questionnaire (see right)



Questionnaire

NHS Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust

The survey is to understand glove use within the trust and the community. Please answer the following questions and add comments.

GLOVEless

1. Would you wear gloves to assist a patient/ resident to mobilise?
2. Do you wash/ gel your hands prior to donning a pair of gloves?
3. Do you wash/ gel your hands after doffing gloves?
4. Do you moisturise your hands daily?
5. Would you wear gloves to take a patient's/resident's blood pressure?
6. Would you wear gloves to take a patient's/resident's blood pressure?
7. Have you had to contact Occupational Health for problems with your hands?
8. Do you feel gloves are overused?

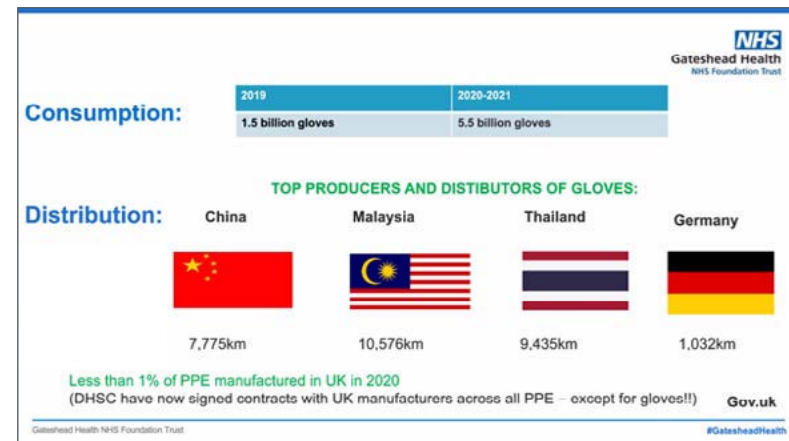
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust #GatesheadHealth



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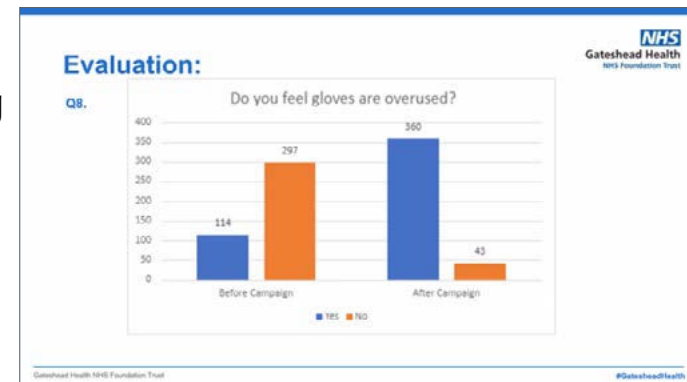
- We sent out a poster with a QR code to the survey (which took less than 1 minute to complete) and kept it open for 7 weeks - The campaign ran from 28 April - 20 August 2023
- We had 413 responses, which we were very pleased by. When we repeated it we received 405 responses.
- We weren't prepared for some of the responses - some were shocking, for example, 72% didn't think that gloves are overused! Part of the campaign was education: we showed that gloves are made from rubber trees in countries far from here, travelling thousands of miles - by plane - to get here. Production also takes a lot of energy and water. Less than 1% of PPE manufactured in UK in 2020.
- In 2019, we used 1.5 billion gloves, during Covid there was a huge rise: 2020-2021 = 5.5 billion gloves!
- We discovered that 12 million gloves were used in Gateshead in 2022 which weighs 49 tonnes which equates to approximately 6 African elephants' in terms of comparable weight. This equates to approximately 27 tonnes of CO2 from disposal process: that's a lot of carbon emissions.



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- In preparation for the campaign we applied for funding from the local integrated care board, and had some professional made items. We secured £2000 from the ICB and received additional funds from Gateshead Foundation Trust. We made banner stands and posters and distributed these.
- Our catch phrase was, 'Risk assess to use less'
- The poster had information from the National Infection Prevention and Control Manual (and a QR code linking to more of it). We also did leaflets with an FAQ section, which among other things, reminded people that whilst gloves are a barrier to fluids, they're made from porous materials which bacteria can breach. We also promoted the campaign using information stands, newsletters, created screensavers, power point presentations and both internal and external meetings.
- A lot of it was reminding people when to wash their hands - for example, washing their hands after taking their gloves off since gloves aren't a complete protection.
- Interesting findings, for example, we found that 62% washed their hands before donning gloves, but that 38% didn't.
- The evaluation was very successful - we had no way of knowing if the same people filled the survey in after the project, but the responses were still good, for example see below.
- We did feel that the campaign was successful and that we are reducing unnecessary glove use.



Thank you to all 50 delegates who attended the meeting.

A selection of comments from delegates:

Brilliant session, amazing work Simone!

Thank you, thats really helpful!!

Brilliant work Simone - and hope to replicate in our own area

I will share with the Care Home Nurse Network - excellent information shared
Thank you

Great presentation, thank you!

Great work. I'm going to review our care homes policies and use your questions with our staff!!

