

Sustainable practice in parenteral medication administration: gloves at your disposal?

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Definition disposal

- at someone's disposal: available to be used by someone
- the act of getting rid of something, especially by throwing it away

What was done?

- Re-evaluation of the Dutch guideline on administration of parenteral medication from a sustainability point of view.
- Reducing unnecessary glove usage in medication administration.

Why was it done?

- The use of gloves in medication administration can vary depending on several factors, including the specific healthcare hygienic policies, local guidelines, and the type of medication being administered. There is no uniform practice across all of Europe.
- According to the Dutch guideline on administration of parenteral medication disposable gloves are traditionally used during parenteral medication administration.
- Most parenteral medications do not pose a significant hazardous risk and the administration of ready to use preparations does not pose a significant infection risk.

How was it done?

- Re-evaluating the need for disposable gloves from both an infection prevention and medication hazard point of view.
- Discussion with experts and users.
- Implementation of findings both in the inpatient and outpatient departments.

What has been achieved?

- Overall growing attention to correct glove usage.
- Reduction of use of disposable gloves during parenteral medication administration and other medical procedures
- CO₂-, land occupation and water reduction



	#Gloves	%	CO ₂ eq	m ³ land occupation	m ³ water usage	€/month
Before	552807		38366	3789	1982	23078
After	463522		32170	3177	1662	19400
Sustainability	-89285	-16	-6197	-612	-320	-3678

What next?

- Revision of the Dutch guidelines on administration of parenteral medication

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Disposable gloves depending on size and supplier amount to approximately 0,67 kg/200 gloves; 9,3 CO₂ eq/kg; 0,918 m³/kg land occupation and 0,48 m³/kg water usage.



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