

GLOVES ARE SO LAST PANDEMIC

ADDRESSING NON-STERILE GLOVE OVERUSE IN DGRI CCU

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This project aimed to **reduce unnecessary non-sterile glove (NSG) use in the Dumfries and Galloway Royal Infirmary (DGRI) critical care unit (CCU) by 20% over 6 weeks**. With the aid of our key stakeholders and initial observational data, change was implemented **through education and increasing awareness** within the unit. It was further hypothesised that reducing unnecessary NSG use will have a secondary **beneficial impact on spending costs and reducing plastic waste**.

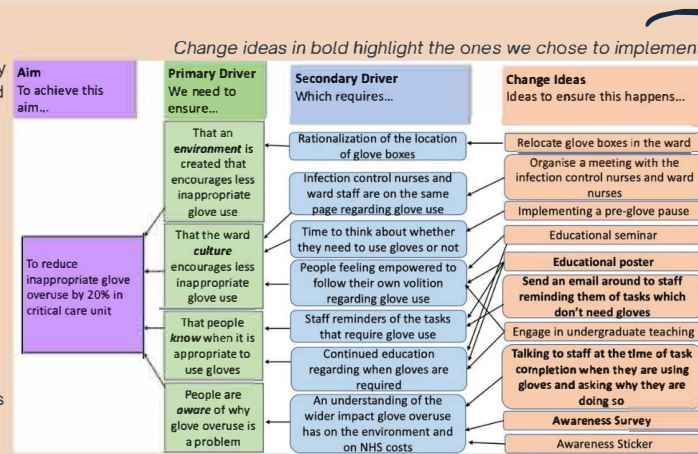
BACKGROUND

• Gloves should be used when there is a possibility of contact with blood and body fluids

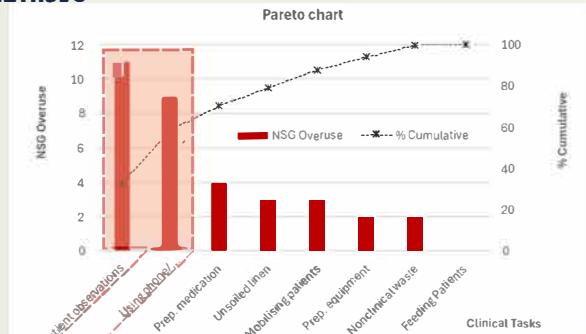
• Research shows that glove overuse frequently takes place

• Unnecessary glove overuse harms the environment and costs the NHS

• Staff awareness and education are key factors of this issue within healthcare



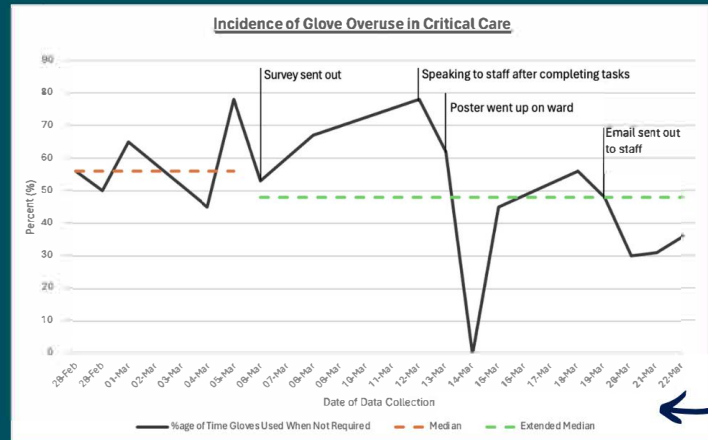
METHODS



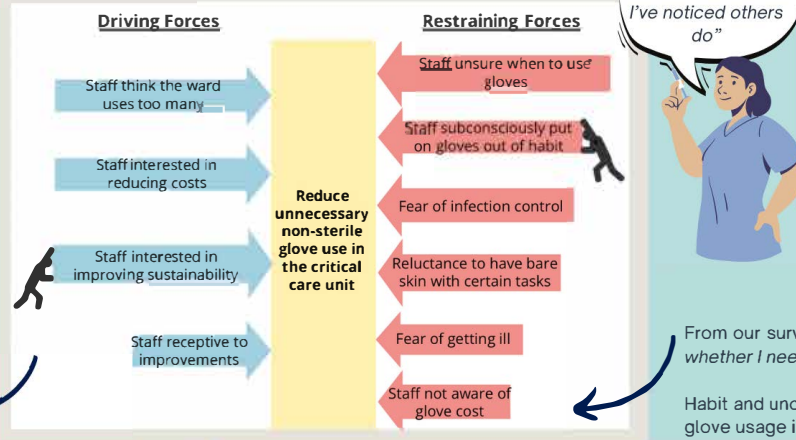
• Staff were observed over 4 weeks, recording when gloves were or were not used for tasks that specifically *did not* require putting on gloves

• Baseline data showed *Observations* and *IT Usage* (phone/computers) were identified to be the hotspots for using gloves when not needed.

ANALYSIS



MEASURES & FINDINGS



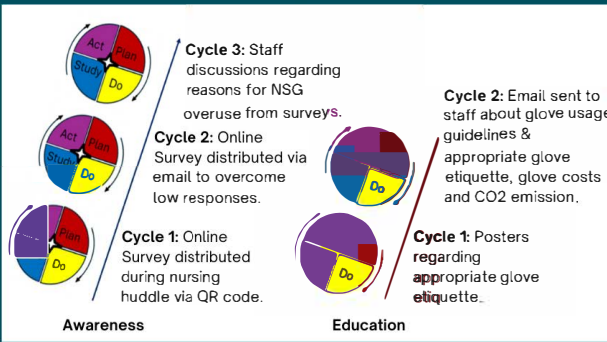
Outcome Measure	Monitored inappropriate glove usage in the ward. One hour observation periods, three times a week, over four weeks.
Process Measure	Frequency and volume of glove stock ordered to the ward.
Balance Measure	Monitored glove habits for tasks that required the use of gloves.



From our survey, we found that **15 out of 16** agreed with the statement "When I am not sure whether I need to wear nonsterile gloves or not, I tend to put them on anyway".

Habit and uncertainty seemed to play a key role in the thought process behind inappropriate glove usage in the CCU.

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Two main routes for change ideas:

- AWARENESS:** Raising awareness regarding NSG overuse within CCU, exploring habits revolving around when to put on gloves.
- EDUCATION:** Addressing motivations surrounding *habits and knowledge gaps* that influence NSG overuse.
 - Reminding Staff of guidelines regarding NSG overuse

CONCLUSION

- The outcome of all the changes undertaken during this project seems to show little impact on glove use.
 - However, good rapport with the staff was established and with the successful implementation of the change ideas, attention has been brought to this issue.
- Additionally, the short observation period may delay observable changes.
 - A downward decline can be seen towards the end of the observation period, supporting a potential delayed effect.
- In keeping with our results, there was no decrease in glove boxes ordered
- A main concern was the potential negative impact on targeting glove usage in the ward.
 - No increase of inappropriate glove use regarding tasks where wearing gloves were essential was observed.

NEXT STEPS

- The changes implemented should have a lasting impact.
 - Posters placed in the ward will be staying up in the foreseeable future, and can act as a visual reminder of the reflective discussions and glove guidelines email conducted during this project.
 - It is hoped that NSG overuse will be reduced in the CCU and promote a positive effect throughout the hospital.
- There is also strong support from the stakeholders that increases the likelihood of this project going further.
- There is potential for following ScotGEM years to continue the project.

