Strategies for Promoting Compliance in using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Donning PPE

Donning PPE is to be performed in a way that prevents contamination of the patient. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided diagrams to help with donning (this column) and removing (right column) PPE.

Donning Protective Gown
1. Select the appropriate size.
2. Opening is in the back (Fig. 1).
3. Secure at the neck and waist (Fig. 2).

Donning a Facemask
1. Place mask over the chin, mouth and nose (Fig. 3).
2. Fix the flexible nosepiece over the bridge of the nose.
3. Secure on the head with the ties or elastic band and adjust to fit.

Donning Protective Eyewear
1. Position goggles over the eyes and secure to the head using earpieces or headband (Fig. 4).
2. Or, position face shield on face and secure with the headband (Fig. 5).

Donning Gloves
1. Don gloves last.
2. Before donning, perform hand hygiene.
3. Select correct type and size.
4. Insert hands into gloves (Fig. 6).
5. Extend the gloves over the cuffs of the protective clothing.

Removing PPE

Removing contaminated PPE needs to be performed in a way that prevents contamination of the skin or underlying clothing. Remember, the outside of gloves and the fronts of protective clothing, eyewear, masks and face shields are highly contaminated. Perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.

Removing Contaminated Gloves
1. Grasp the edge of the glove near the wrist (Fig. 7).
2. Peel away from the hand turning the glove inside out (Fig. 7).
3. Hold the first glove in the opposite hand (Fig. 8).
4. Slide ungloved finger under wrist of the remaining glove (Fig. 8).
5. Peel off from the inside creating a bag for both gloves (Fig. 9).

Removing Protective Eyewear
1. Grasp the ear or headpieces with ungloved hands (Figs. 10-11).
2. Remove from the face (Figs. 10-11).
3. Discard in designated receptacle for decontamination or disposal.

Removing a Disposable Protective Gown
1. Unfasten ties (Fig. 12).
2. Peel gown away from the neck and shoulders (Fig. 13).
3. Turn the contaminated outside toward the inside.
4. Fold or roll into a bundle and discard.

Removing the Face Mask
1. Untie the bottom, then the top tie (Fig. 14) or carefully grasp the elastic band.
2. Remove from the face and discard (Fig. 15).
3. Remember masks are single use devices. They are to be discarded immediately after removal and not stored in the operatory, in pockets, or around the neck for reuse.