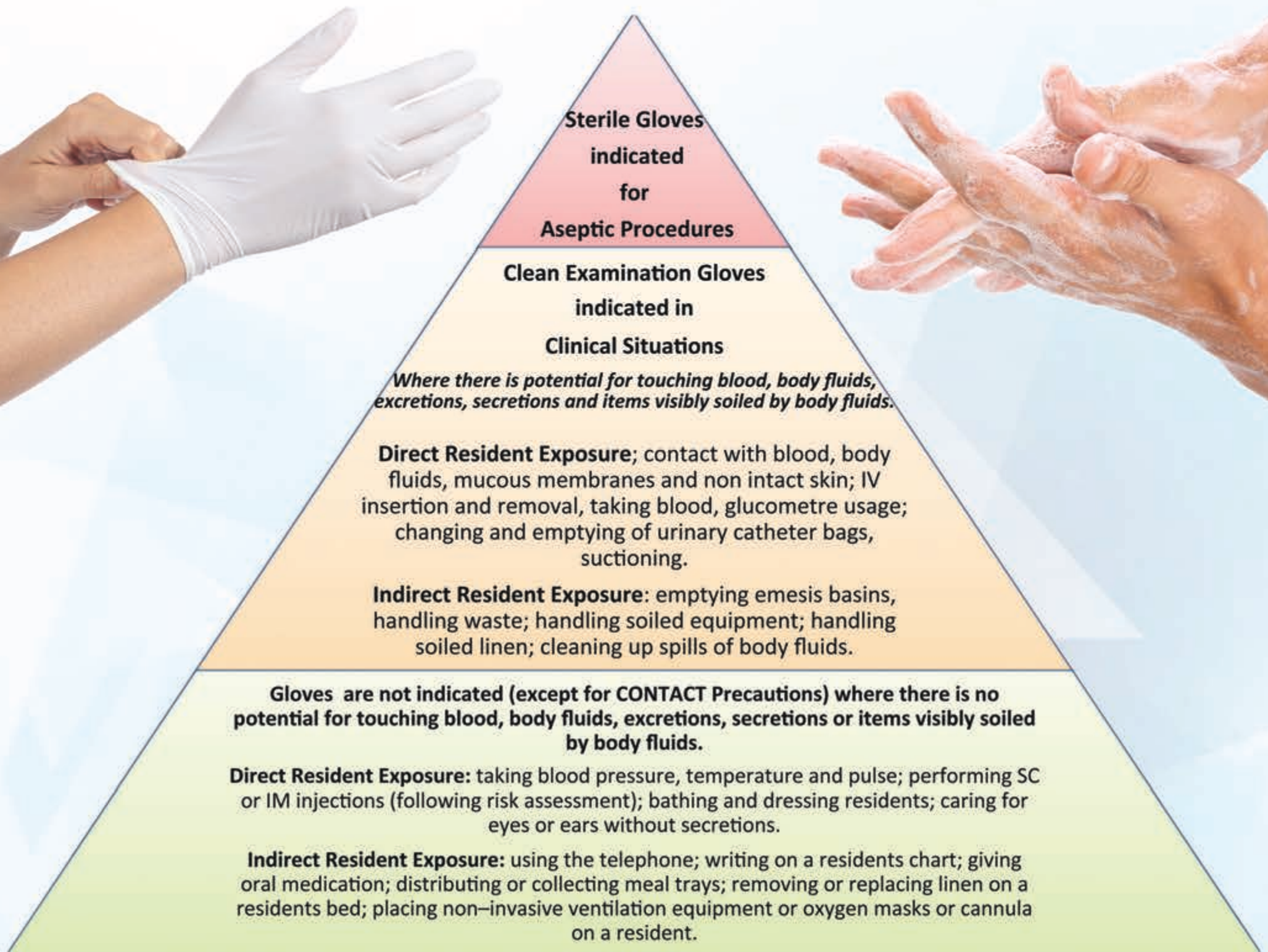


GLOVE USAGE PYRAMID

Hand hygiene must be performed when appropriate regardless of these indications for glove use



Adapted from WHO 2009 WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Healthcare. First Global Patient Safety Challenge Clean Care is Safer Care; Switzerland 140-143.

KEY MESSAGES FOR GLOVE USE:

- Gloves are effective in preventing contamination of hands and helping reduce transmission of harmful micro-organisms.
- However, gloves do not provide complete protection against hands becoming contaminated and if gloves are not removed immediately after a care episode in which they were indicated, may contribute to transmission of micro-organisms.
- The unnecessary use of gloves in situations where their use is not appropriate should be avoided.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON GLOVE USE:

- In no way does wearing gloves replace the need for hand hygiene either by handwashing or using an alcohol hand rub.
- Wear gloves when it can be reasonably anticipated that contact with blood or body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or potentially infectious material will occur.
- Remove gloves after caring for a resident and clean immediately.
- When wearing gloves change or remove gloves in the following situations:
 - during care of a resident if moving from a contaminated body site to a clean body site (including contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin or a medical device)
 - after touching a contaminated site and
 - before touching a clean site for the same resident or environment.



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE South (Cork & Kerry) August 2014
Community and Disability, Infection Prevention and Control Services.