

# Use of Non-Sterile Examination Gloves

Updated May 13, 2020

## Increased use of extended cuff non-sterile examination gloves has led to a shortage

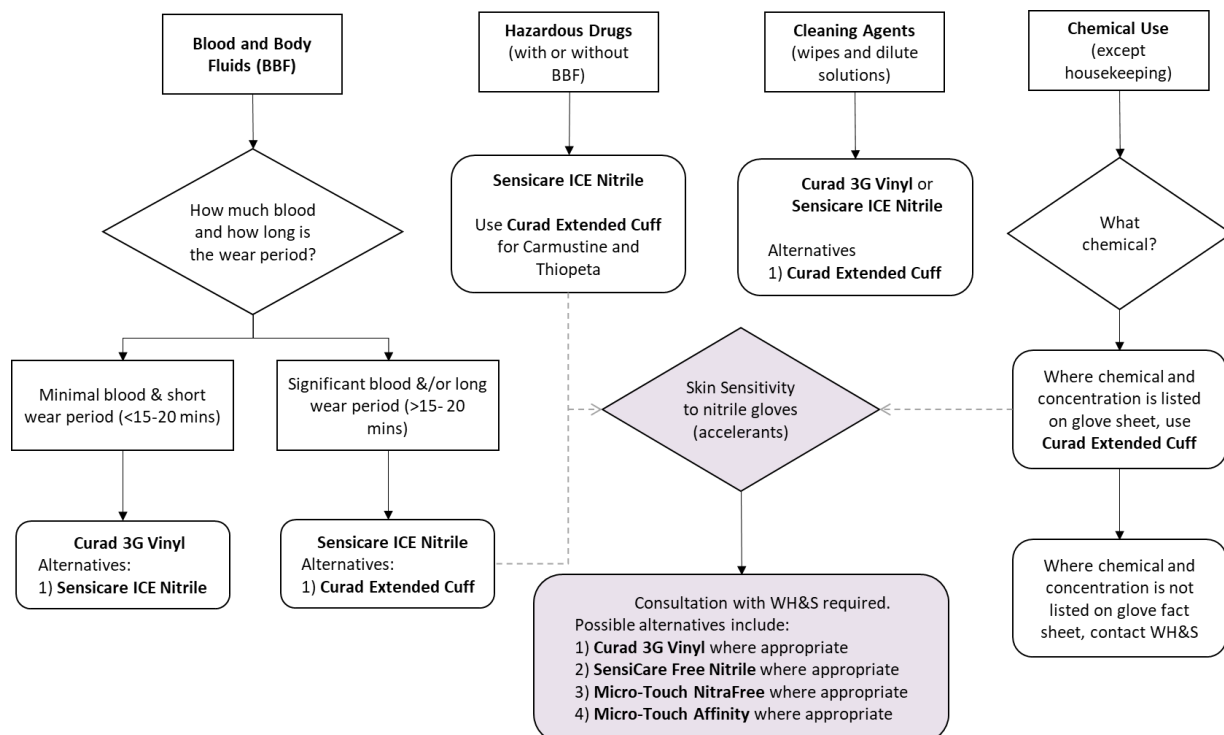
- Extended cuff examination gloves have very specific indications for use (e.g., use of concentrated chemicals or certain hazardous drugs)
- Other examination gloves, such as vinyl or regular cuff nitrile, can be used in the vast majority of situations.
- Extended cuff gloves may be required if the cuff of the glove does not reach the cuff of the gown.
- Extended cuff examination gloves should not be used for bathing. Waterproof shoulder length gloves are now available.

## To preserve the stock of extended cuff non-sterile examination gloves, use vinyl (e.g., Curad 3G Vinyl) or regular cuff nitrile (e.g., Sensicare ICE Nitrile) whenever appropriate.

- Vinyl gloves can be used in the majority of patient care situations when dealing with small amounts of blood and gloves are worn for short periods of time (15-20 minutes), including bathing, phlebotomies, emptying catheter bags, suctioning, vaginal/rectal exams, cleaning with wipes and dilute solutions.

Use regular cuff nitrile gloves when dealing with significant amounts of blood, activities longer than 20 minutes and handling of concentrated cleaning solutions (Oxivir TB, Accel, Caviwipes and IPA).

## Glove Selection Decision Tree



For more information on glove selection, refer to the [Non-Sterile Examination Selection Guide](#). If you have questions, email [workplacehealthandsafety@northernhealth.ca](mailto:workplacehealthandsafety@northernhealth.ca).