

MEMO

Date:	June 10, 2020
To:	All staff and physicians
Cc:	PHSA Supply Chain
From:	Bonnie Mackenzie, Regional Coordinator, Medical Device Reprocessing and Lois Barney, Director, Support Services
Reviewed By:	NH PPE Task Group
Re:	Gowns (Procedure) – Disposable and Reusable

A policy and a process related to the use of procedure gowns (i.e. isolation gowns, chemo gowns, and cover gowns) has been developed.

A description of each gown, a visual aid and the intended use is displayed in a table in the [Gowns –The Appropriate Use of Gowns for Infection Prevention policy](#). The collection, washing/drying instructions, and department usage procedures are included in the [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Specifications in the Laundry Department process](#).

Key points for gown use include:

- Appropriate times to use isolation gowns
- Measures to conserve gown stock (inventory)
- Categorization of gown barrier protection and fluid resistancy for both reusable and disposable gowns
- Indications for use for chemotherapy rated gowns.
- Issuing of reusable gowns (introduced due to inventory shortages of disposable gowns)
- Laundry instructions for reusable gowns
- Maintenance and barrier testing (i.e. fluid resistance)

Northern Health is implementing reusable gowns to provide staff with appropriate PPE while conserving the supply of disposable isolation gowns. Reusable isolation gowns are an acceptable product equivalent to disposable isolation gowns. The gowns will be issued in certain high volume areas where there's the capacity to launder them appropriately. They will be issued through the central PPE supply at the sites.

To ensure staff health and safety, disposable gowns and reusable gowns **must** be procured through PHSA Supply Chain, with input from relevant stakeholders (i.e.

Infection Prevention and Control). Laundry Departments have the right to refuse any reusable items that have not been obtained through proper procurement.

Disposable isolation gowns in Northern Health meet the Canadian Standards Association Z314-18 required barrier protection. During pandemic or crisis situations gowns may appear to have lesser quality, however the fluid resistance of all gowns procured through PHSA Supply Chain meet Canadian Standards Association minimum requirements for protection.

Reusable isolation gowns in Northern Health will maintain the Canadian Standards Association Z314-18 required barrier protection. Gowns will be removed from service as isolation gowns if barrier testing (completed by qualified laundry service staff member), identifies the gown as not meeting the appropriate barrier.

Reference: National Standard of Canada CAN/CSA Z314-18, section 19.1.2.3.