

From: Richard Hart [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 22 March 2018 5:07 PM
To: medboardconsultation <medboardconsultation@ahpra.gov.au>
Subject: wearing gloves during clinical exam

MedicalBoard
AHPRA

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: proposed policy update

“When conducting a physical examination, good medical practice involves:

- ***Using gloves when examining genitals or conducting internal examinations”***

It is not appropriate to mandate the use of gloves in every routine examination of the external genitalia in newborns or children.

In every new born examination a paediatrician will routinely examine the external genitalia of babies and children and gloves are not routinely worn unless there are special considerations.

This applies in every routine newborn clinical examination to assess for undescended testes, hypospadias and perianal abnormalities. Similarly a comprehensive examination of a toddler should routinely include examining femoral pulses and assessing for undescended testes, inguinal herniae and foreskin abnormalities.

This part of the examination is done in a relaxed non-threatening atmosphere with parental and where possible child's verbal consent.

It is not appropriate to mandate the use of gloves in this routine situation since this would disrupt the flow of a normal clinical examination and place undue emphasis on the seeming abnormality of this component.

Certainly gloves should be worn in certain situations such as the examination of a female adolescent and forensic examinations.

I do not support a change in policy to mandate use of gloves in all situations since this is arbitrary, not based on evidence and is an unnecessary time-consuming directive.

Richard Hart

