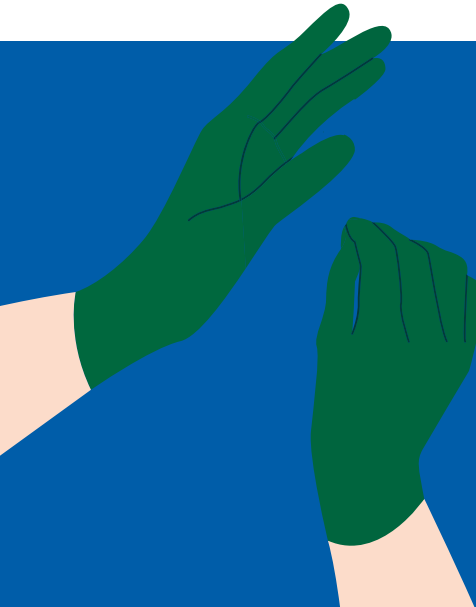


The Benefits of Switching to Latex-Free Gloves



The status quo

Hospitals are under pressure. Facilities now prioritise cost and human resource management, due to COVID-19-related higher expenses and personnel shortage.¹

Operating theatre managers often overlook the hidden costs of choosing latex-based gloves, as it relates to mitigating adverse impacts on staff and patients.

Gloves, especially latex-based, are amongst the most used products, representing a significant percentage of expenses in healthcare facilities in Europe.

Healthcare workers have historically preferred latex gloves, but they are increasingly becoming aware of new generations of synthetic gloves with similar performance levels that do not cause allergic reactions.

Latex-related reactions – An overview

The 'latex-safe' approach has been considered an adequate response to preventing latex-related issues. It involves using hypoallergenic low-powdered and powder-free latex gloves, while eliminating cornstarch powder. However, this does not remove the true source of the allergen.³ As current figures in Europe show, using latex gloves is ineffective in ensuring complete safety.



Approximately 19 million people (4.3% of the population) in Europe are allergic to latex.²



Latex-based allergy and latex-induced sensitisation affect 9.7% (~350,000) and 12.4% (~450,000) of healthcare workers in Europe, respectively.⁵



30.4% of patients undergoing multiple surgeries develop latex-induced sensitisation, with 7.2% suffering from latex allergy.²

Costs Associated with Latex-Based Glove Use

Despite the lower initial cost of purchasing and using latex gloves, there are hidden direct and indirect costs, as well as those that cannot be calculated.

Direct

- Latex allergy disability compensation (HCW)
- Latex allergy single event compensation (HCW)
- Latex allergy compensation in case of disability/death (Patients)
- Latex allergy defense (HCW)
- Latex-related medical care
- Sick leave replacement
- Cancelled or delayed surgery for latex-sensitive patients
- Latex supply replacement

Indirect

- Diagnostic testing to determine sensitivity
- In-service training for staff
- Time for developing policies and procedures

Incalculable

- Decreased staff productivity
- Decreased procedure quality
- Patients and workers' satisfaction
- Performance of the unit, regarding sick leave



Key Points for a Smooth Switchover

Many healthcare organisations have now undertaken well-managed and successful conversions to latex-free gloves. All of their conversion plans have four key elements:



Clearly defined and sufficiently resourced plans



Support from key opinion leaders and the leadership team



Champions available to support with the conversion



A reliable partnership with a flexible, trusted and experienced supplier.

At Medline, there are dedicated and knowledgeable local teams available to support your organisation with achieving an effective and smooth conversion to a safer and more sustainable solution—our high-quality latex-free surgical gloves.

Latex Hidden Cost Calculator

Help healthcare providers estimate potential costs of latex-based surgical gloves and possible savings from latex-free options.

Scan the QR code to learn more.



medline.eu/uk/hidden-cost-of-latex

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Medline promotes and respects labour and human rights. Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more.



medline.com/capabilities/ppe-gloves-surgical/ethical-sourcing/



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