

Appropriate Glove Use

Nitesh Gounder - Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Prevention Counties Manukau – Middlemore Hospital

RIGHT GLOVE. RIGHT TIME. *Right Care*

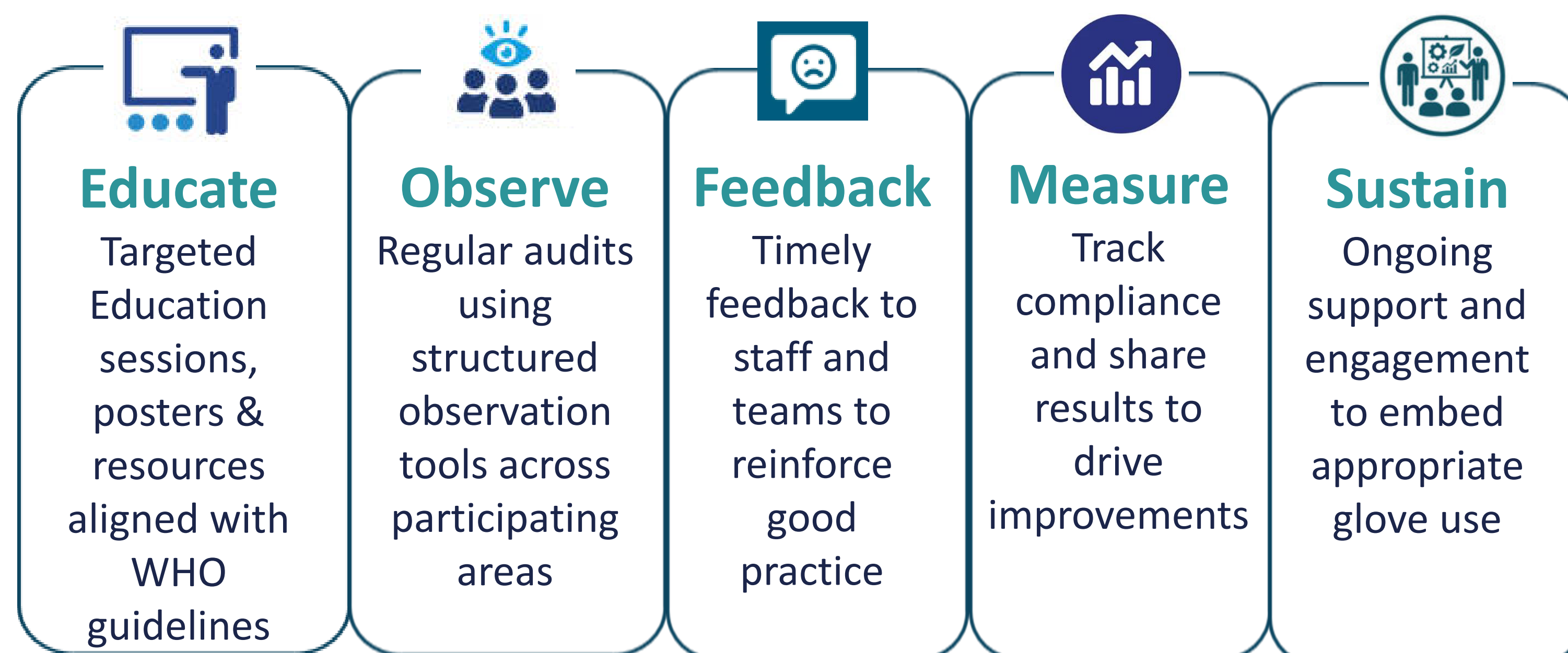


Promoting appropriate glove use to improve patient safety and reduce harm

Background

- ✓ **Gloves are an essential barrier** when there is a risk of exposure to blood, body fluids, mucous membranes, non-intact skin or when dealing with chemicals
- ✓ Inappropriate glove use can lead to cross- transmission, increase the risk of healthcare associated infections (HAIs) and result in unnecessary risk and cost
- ✓ Observations at Health NZ Counties Manukau identified variations in glove use practices in clinical and non-clinical areas

Our approach

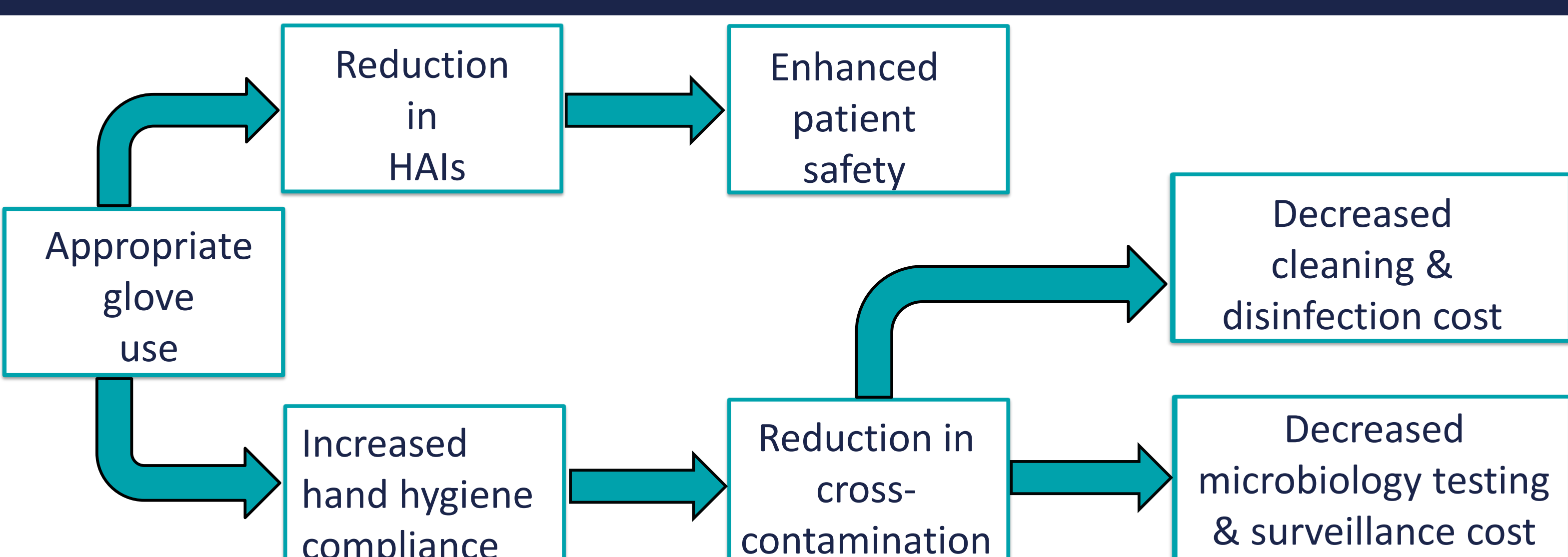


Challenges

- Knowledge of hand hygiene principles
- Habitual glove use
- Fear of occupational exposure
- Perception that gloves provide great protection
- Knowledge gap
- Changing Workplace culture
- Resistant to change
- Time pressure
- Sustaining Leadership engagement



Organisational implications



References:

Lalakea, M. L., Noel, J. E., & Meiklejohn, D. A. (2025). Reducing Glove Overuse in Outpatient Specialty Clinics: Cost Reduction and Environmental Benefit. *OTO open*, 9(1), e70103. <https://doi.org/10.1002/oto2.70103>

Sustainable Emergency Care. (2025). It's time to take the gloves off. *Gloves Off Campaign | Reduce Waste in Emergency Care | Sustainable Emergency Care*

Tina Wilkie-Miskin, Mya Abigail Acosta, Sarah Browning, Kristen Pickles, Sally Munnoch, Patricia Knight, Amy Bernotas, Stanley Chen, Rachel Ng, Erin Mathieu. (2026). Gloves off!: Environmental and financial impacts of an educational intervention to improve hand hygiene. *A quality improvement study. Infection, Disease & Health* 31(1). <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468045125000495>

Vilar-Compte, D., Garcíadiego-Fossas, P., & Ibañez-Gutiérrez, C. (2025). Gloving in medicine: a boon for infection prevention or a hindrance?. *Antimicrobial stewardship & healthcare epidemiology* : ASHE, 5(1), e288. <https://doi.org/10.1017/ash.2025.10145>

Aim



To improve compliance with appropriate glove use in clinical practice and support a culture of safety and quality care

Results



Monetary Savings on Glove Purchase

	2024	2025
Total number ordered	11112	10231
Total cost	\$166,124.4	\$100,143.55
Cost per box	\$14.95	\$9.75
Cost at \$9.75	\$108,342	

- Net Savings - \$8,200
- Reduction in glove use - 9.2%

Savings projections for HNZ – CM

Approximately \$36,000 per year on glove purchase only



Key messages

- ✓ **Gloves are for blood and body fluid exposure risk, not routine**
- ✓ **Hand hygiene is the most important step – before and after glove use**
- ✓ **Small changes in practice make a big difference to patient safety**
- ✓ **Sustainable care starts with doing the right thing, every time**



Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora



TOGETHER FOR SAFER CARE
Every Moment. Every Patient. Every time