

Case Study

Latex Free Surgical Glove Conversion Royal United Hospital Bath

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The Royal United Hospital, Bath, working with the HSE (Health & Safety Executive), decided that the gloves purchased in the Trust should be latex free wherever possible.

Jenny Belcher, Clinical Procurement Specialist was the procurement lead for the conversion of surgical gloves. Following a cost comparison exercise, three companies were invited for a trial. The trial for each company was for three weeks with a week between each trial period for swapping out stock from the previous supplier.

This change to latex free gloves provided the Royal United Hospital, Bath the opportunity to review and challenge current gloving practice and improve practice accordingly, for example; the use of a coloured underglove during surgical procedures was implemented.

Ansell was the third company the Trust trialed. Ansell as always ran the trial seamlessly, ensuring that a Clinical Consultant was on site for the three weeks to assist all staff with glove selection and offering advise where needed. Ansell always ensures that trials cause little disruption to staff by swapping the gloves out before surgery starts, being present for the duration of the trial, offering support at all times and collecting all evaluations personally.

All trial evaluations were collated. Ansell had a very high acceptance rate of 85%, which was presented to the Clinical Consumable Review Group, which includes procurement, an Orthopaedic Consultant and members of the Theatre Nursing Team.

The decision of which company to select was determined on clinical acceptance, quality, cost, and company added value. Ansell was awarded the contract as Ansell achieved a high acceptance level. Ansell partners with a network of distributors to ensure efficient distribution and supply, The Royal United Hospital, Bath uses Bunzl as the distributor for this product.

Once the decision was made to award Ansell the business, Ansell continued to provide assistance to complete the transition, Rebecca the Clinical Consultant at Ansell was in attendance when needed. There are three theatre departments within the Royal United Hospital, Bath. Jenny and Rebecca converted the two smaller theatre departments first (e.g. Day Surgery) and sent all the latex gloves to the larger main theatres suite to use up all the stock. When the stock of latex gloves became low, Jenny & Rebecca converted the main theatre department. This worked extremely well and meant there was no waste or extra cost to the Trust.

Since July 2012, The Royal United Hospital, Bath has used Ansell Latex Free Surgical Gloves. The Trust only experienced a few problems with the glove conversion, e.g. some staff experienced skin reactions with the chosen glove. Ansell was able to find solutions quickly for any problems the Trust had e.g. the availability of an accelerator free surgical glove. Ansell and the Royal United Hospital, Bath work closely together and have regular contact. Ansell have always been helpful and supportive with any issues the Trust has. This working relationship works extremely well for both parties.

The procurement team at the Royal United Hospital, Bath are very motivated and forward thinkers. They are truly considered early adopters of latex free gloves and are more than happy to provide advice to anyone thinking of tackling this latex free issue. Ansell, an innovative leader in perioperative safety, with a century of rich heritage in glove design and protective solutions is also available to address your needs with practical, actionable solutions.

As of October 2015, Bath remains a latex free facility for surgical gloves and continues to use the Ansell portfolio of latex free surgical gloves.

The author, Rebecca Williams, is engaged by Ansell as a clinical consultant.

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