Are You *Comfortable* with Your Level of Protection?

Understanding AAMI Standards and How They Relate to Choosing Protective Gowns
# Getting Comfortable with Your Level of Protection

Being comfortable with your choices takes an understanding of AAMI Standards and how they relate to choosing the right level of protective apparel.

## Explanation of AAMI PB 70 Guidelines

Three levels of protection are derived from standards that measure three performance characteristics:

- **Material Barrier**: *How well the gown protects against blood or other potentially infectious fluids.*
- **Seam Barrier**: *Prevents and reduces contamination through the seams.*
- **Full Coverage**: 360° full coverage with no open slits for protection in the front and back, both areas are critical areas for AAMI level gowns.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>TEST METHOD</th>
<th>TEST DEFINITION</th>
<th>REQUIREMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
<td>Water resistance: Impact penetration</td>
<td>AATCC 42 Measures the resistance of fabrics to the liquid penetration of water by impact</td>
<td>Spray Impact ≤ 4.5g</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AATCC 42</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td>Water resistance: Impact penetration</td>
<td>AATCC 42 Measures the resistance of fabrics to the liquid penetration of water by impact</td>
<td>Spray Impact ≤ 1.0g</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AATCC 127</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hydrostatic Pressure ≥ 20cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td>Water resistance: Impact penetration</td>
<td>AATCC 42 Measures the resistance of fabrics to the liquid penetration of water by impact</td>
<td>Spray Impact ≤ 1.0g</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AATCC 127</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hydrostatic Pressure ≥ 50cm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>AATCC 127</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- **Level 1**: Designed for low fluid exposure, in areas such as Med/Surg Units, Laundry, Housekeeping, Patient Transport, Basic Care

- **Level 2**: Designed for low to moderate fluid exposure, in areas such as ICU Med/Surg Units, Dialysis, Nursery, Pathology, Laboratories, Blood Draw, Suturing, IV Line Insertion

- **Level 3**: Designed for moderate fluid exposure, in areas such as ER, Trauma, Burn Unit, Critical Care Units, Arterial Blood Draw, IV Line Insertion
Precept makes no representation or warranty that its products will provide absolute protection from contact or exposure to contaminants or blood, or eliminate the risk of contracting diseases of any nature. OSHA requires the employer to evaluate the task and type of exposure anticipated and select the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) that reduces the employee’s exposure to potential hazards.
Does your staff know what protection your current selection of Protective Gowns provides?

The goal of Precept’s **A.C.E. Program** (Assess, Consolidate, Educate) is to make sure healthcare professionals have choices for the appropriate level of protection needed to safely perform their duties.

**ASSESS**

Based on safety, comfort and compliance goals, Precept will review your current products and practices and then make recommendations. Sample assessment questions might include:

- What gowns are you currently using to protect your staff and patients?
- Describe the major goals you set for choosing your current gowns.
- If you could improve your current gowns, what would be the one or two aspects you would focus on?
- Do you know if your current gowns are AAMI rated? If so what level?
- If you have more than one gown, are there directives for each gown’s use?
- What real or potential problem do you experience surrounding size, fit, and design of gowns?

**CONSOLIDATE**

Precept will recommend the products you need and explain why. Our recommendations will include:

- A tailored solution based on your risk of fluid exposure.
- Standardized offerings that improves utilization.
- Product specifications with attributes and benefits.

**EDUCATE**

Via in-service training, we will help your staff determine the appropriate gowns for different situations. Types of training and education include:

- Understanding current AAMI standards for gowns including barrier levels for material and seams as well as appropriate coverage for the back.
- Understanding the trade-offs when choosing a gown.
- Instruction on the proper donning and doffing of gowns.

**Usage Poster**

Based on recommendations, we will create a customized selection and usage poster showing situational use, proper wearing practices, etc.

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