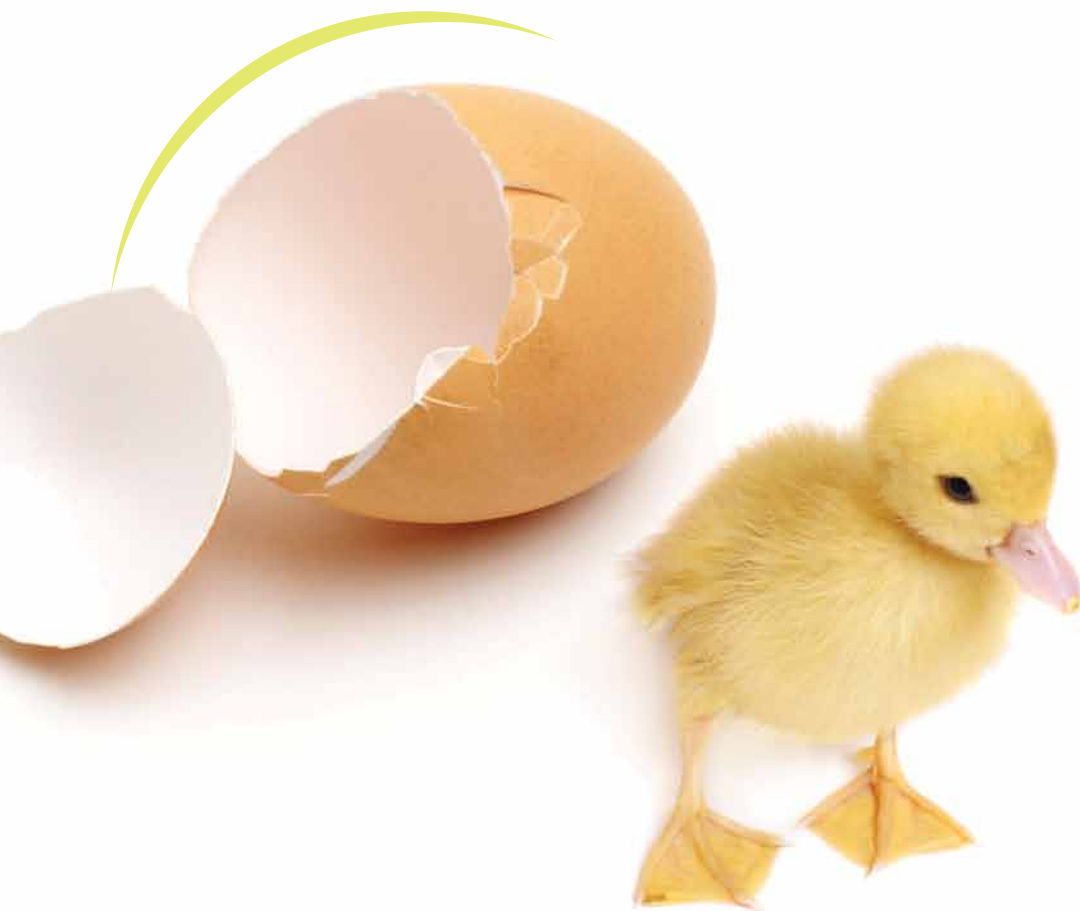


True safety lies in single-use gowns & drapes

The safe and sound solution for medical and healthcare



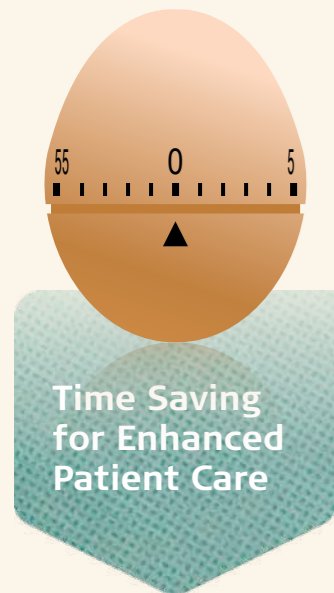
FROM SAFETY TO TIME SAVING, SINGLE-USE GOWNS AND DRAPES HAVE YOU COVERED

Every year, about 656,000 people in Europe are affected by surgical-site infections (SSIs)*. SSIs are estimated to double mortality and morbidity rates for admitted patients. Healthcare practitioners working in operating rooms may also be put at risk. According to the UK's Health & Safety Executive (HSE), data from physician reporting schemes indicate infection rates of about 30 per 100,000 workers per year amongst the nation's nurses.

SSIs cause 17 percent of all hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) and are extremely costly for the medical facilities where they occur. According to the ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) Report 2008, HAIs cost healthcare facilities more than €7 billion every year (direct costs only), of which SSIs are thought to be responsible for over €1.2 billion, as the most expensive form of HAI.

If there was a way to limit incidences of surgical-site infections, wouldn't you want to use every means possible?

Experience shows that single-use gowns and drapes are an essential part of offering the necessary critical protection against infection. Single-use garments and drapes offer substantial advantages for both patients and medical practitioners with no increase in cost in comparison to re-usables. And they are thoroughly trusted by healthcare practitioners. According to one report**, by 2008, single-use gowns and drapes were already the preferred standard in European healthcare facilities (taking into account geographic differences) with 60-65 percent penetration. Although no new figures have been published, this figure is believed to have increased rapidly, according to the report's author.



Single-use gowns and drapes are mainly designed for specific procedures so they are ideally packaged for rapid and easy draping, and clean-up. Packs can even be designed to meet individual surgeon preferences. With each single-use pack containing everything required for one procedure, medical staff save time. Because the

operating room can be prepared and cleaned more quickly, medical facilities could offer a greater number of procedures in a given timeframe. Single-use product packs also require much less storage as they are smaller than packages of re-usables, a substantial advantage for hospitals facing logistics issues.

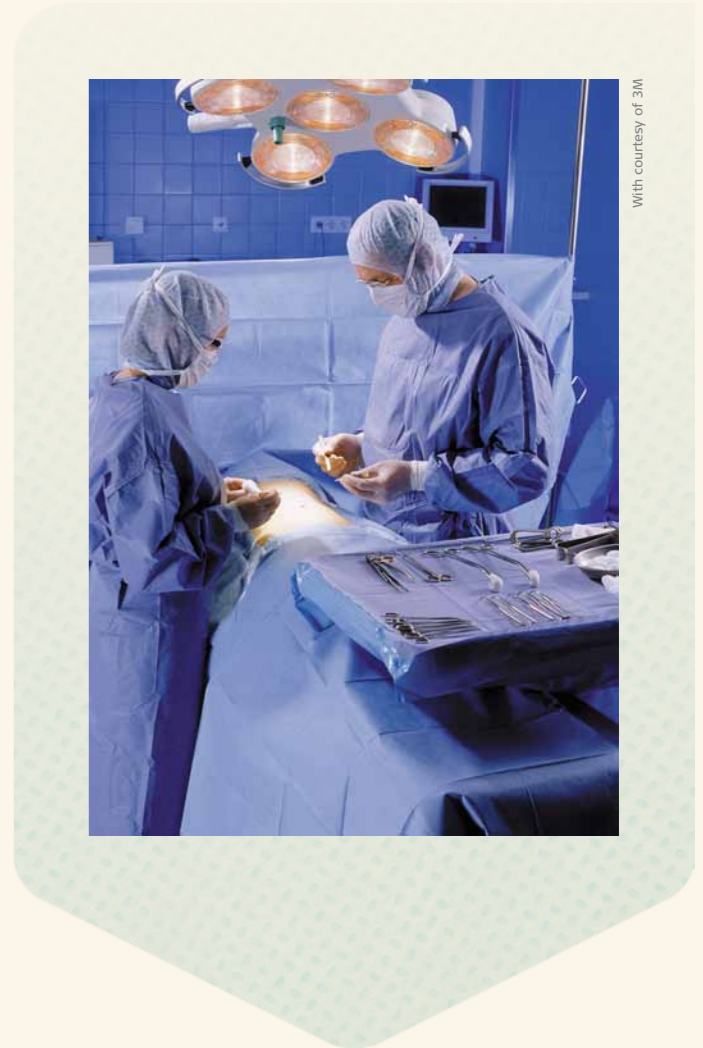


Since their introduction 40 years ago, single-use surgical drapes and gowns have made a significant contribution to the prevention of infection. Every single-use product package is wrapped using a sterile barrier system and when opened is totally new and exposed only to cleanroom conditions. Because materials are single-use only, the permeability of the fabric membrane is as perfect as when manufactured. Adherence to the EN 13795 standard, which outlines expected bacterial barrier properties and test levels for surgical gowns and drapes, is unquestionable. Conventional textiles cannot meet the essential requirements of EN 13795 mainly because of their low resistance to microbial penetration in wet circumstances. Linting problems that characterise these textiles can also be hazardous for patients.

After use, single-use products should be incinerated. With no laundry process, the danger of contact with blood and body fluid outside the operating room is eliminated.

The concept of single-use is especially important today as microorganisms have increased their resistance to antibiotics thereby intensifying the critical need for improved protection for patients and healthcare workers. Unlike conventional textiles, single-use consistently delivers on its promises: garments and drapes are always new, clean, folded as expected and can be applied easily and quickly. In addition, all required single-use garments and products can be included in a single package.

“Single-use garments and drapes are mainly designed for specific procedures so they are ideally shaped for rapid and easy draping, and clean-up.”



“With single-use, we can offer every patient new, secure, unused and sterile materials.”

* Based on figures from the ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) Report 2008.

** Based on a report provided by Engqvist Consulting (published 2008) - 'Insight on Single-Use Nonwoven Surgical Drapes and Gowns. Part One.'

This brochure is designed to help healthcare professionals evaluate their options in the light of the EN 13795 standard. It is produced by Medeco, the Medical Devices Committee of EDANA, the voice of nonwovens in Europe.

For more information about the CEN standard, please visit www.medeco.edana.org

About EDANA

Unifying the diversified interests of more than 220 member companies in over 30 countries, EDANA's mission is to create the foundation for sustainable growth of the nonwovens and related industries.

Medeco's mission is to increase awareness of the benefits of nonwovens and related products in healthcare, and to bring single-use solutions from the nonwovens industry to the decision makers, influencers and end-users in surgery, wound management and infection control.



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