



Guideline for the Use of Posey Mitts

- Use of Posey Mitts potentially constitutes an infringement of the patient's right to autonomy, but this is potentially outweighed by benefits to the patient i.e. their use may constitute an act of beneficence.
- Posey Mitts should not be used routinely in those with Nasogastric tubes, but assessed on an individual patient basis.
- There should be a clear rationale for their use documented in the patient's notes.
- For the patient who is pulling out Nasogastric tubes, IVs or other treatments, in whom communication is difficult, staff should attempt to make an assessment of the intention behind the patient's action, and of the patient's capacity to consent to treatment.
- Posey Mitts should generally be used where the patient is NOT thought to be exercising a determined wish to have treatment terminated i.e. is acting involuntarily OR is not felt to have the capacity to exercise a decision regarding the continuation or otherwise of treatment.
- In the latter case, the use of Posey Mitts should be specified on a Section 47 (Adults with Incapacity) form.
- Posey Mitts are most commonly used on the non-affected hand of a hemiplegic patient. The use of Posey Mitts on both hands of a patient suffering from a condition other than Hemiplegia, is not thought to present different ethical issues since the consequence (i.e. removing the patient's capacity for autonomous action) is the same.