The precautions associated with gloves and glutaraldehyde relate to PROLONGED exposure to the chemical. Within the context of an audiology clinic, infection control procedures involving immersion and removal of clinical instruments from a soaking tray are not considered activities associated with prolonged exposure; rather, this activity is considered a short exposure activity. Short exposure activities refer to those activities taking no more than 15 minutes⁴. Within the context of audiology, any infection control procedures incorporating glutaraldehyde fall under the category of SHORT EXPOSURE ACTIVITY (15 minutes or less).

Gloves are required when handling glutaraldehyde. As a GENERAL statement, according to the US Department of Labor, gloves made of Butyl Rubber, Nitrile, and Vitron are impervious to this chemical⁵. Furthermore, gloves made of polyethylene may be used for short exposure activities involving glutaraldehyde. Do not use Neoprene and PVC gloves because they do not provide the adequate protection against glutaraldehyde and may actually absorb it⁶.

It is the opinion of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration that Latex exam gloves may be used as protection for glutaraldehyde during short-term or incidental contact situations⁷. Short-term activities are defined as those no more than 15 minutes.

Based on the above information:

**GLOVES APPROPRIATE FOR SHORT EXPOSURE HANDLING OF GLUTARALDEHYDE**
- All Nitrile gloves: item# starting with APFN
- Latex Gloves: item# starting with GPPFT

**DO NOT USE THE FOLLOWING GLOVES FOR HANDLING GLUTARALDEHYDE:**
Vinyl gloves because they are made from PVC: item# starting with VPF

**DISPOSAL OF GLUTARALDEHYDE SOLUTIONS:**
Dispose of glutaraldehyde solutions in accordance with local, state, and Federal regulations. If there are no disposal restrictions, the solution may be disposed of, along with copious amounts of cold water, into a drain connected to the sanitary sewer system⁸.

References: