

General Infection Prevention Guidelines for ORs

YES	NO	
		OBSERVATION: Is clean surgical attire worn in the semi-restricted and restricted areas? <i>AORN Recommendation</i> SUPPORT INFO: Clean attire protects patients from exposure to microorganisms that may contribute to an SSI.
		OBSERVATION: Scrub attire is laundered daily (do staff interview if they home launder their scrubs). <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Is surgical attire transported in enclosed carts or containers? <i>AORN Recommendation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Are the carts or containers clean and free from damage? <i>AORN Recommendation</i> ■ Is the transport vehicle cleaned and disinfected between trips? <i>AORN Recommendation</i> ■ Is staff storing clean attire in an employee locker? (This is not allowed.) <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Are scrubs removed before leaving the hospital setting? This is also required with staff owned scrubs. <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: If surgeons wear their scrubs outside of the facility, do they change into clean scrubs on their return to your organization (i.e., visiting an office or nursing home and seeing patients)? <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Are long sleeves worn during preoperative patient skin antisepsis? <i>AORN Conditional Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Are head coverings used when employees enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas? <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Are beards covered when entering the restricted areas and while preparing and packaging items in the clean assembly section of the sterile processing area? <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Does staff wear clean shoes when entering the semi-restricted or restricted areas? <i>AORN Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Has the OR completed a footwear assessment in accordance with ASTM F2414 standards 75? <i>AORN Recommendation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Has the OR performed a workplace hazard risk assessment that ensures footwear that provides protection from potential hazards (e.g., needlesticks, scalpel cuts, splashing of blood and other potentially infectious fluids? 74 (Regulatory Requirement)³ <i>OSHA Regulatory Requirement</i> ■ Are fluid-resistant shoe covers available when gross contamination is anticipated? <p>Are identification badges cleaned with a low-level disinfectant if it becomes soiled with blood or body fluids? <i>AORN Recommendation</i></p>
		OBSERVATION: Is there staff personal items located in the semi-restricted or restricted areas? <i>AORN Conditional Recommendation</i>
		OBSERVATION: Is there a policy in place for cleaning of cell phones, tablets, and other personal communication or hand-held electronic equipment? <i>AORN Recommendation</i>

Central Sterile and Decontamination Areas

YES	NO	POINT-OF-USE PREPARATION
		Gross soil is removed immediately after use.
		Manufacturer's instructions for point-of-use cleaning is followed. Verify they have manufacturer's recommendations.
		Surgery keeps soiled instruments moist before transport to decon. SUPPORT INFO: Instruments are kept moist to prevent soil from drying on their surface. This can be accomplished by spraying them with an enzyme product, soaking them in an enzyme solution or water or placing a moist towel over them.
		Surgery removes disposable components such as blades, disposable tubing, and canisters. SUPPORT INFO: Separating disposable from reusable components reduces the amount of contaminated items that must be transported and reduces the risk of injury from "sharps"
YES	NO	ATTIRE FOR STERILE PROCESSING STAFF
		Sterile processing staff are wearing facility-issued scrubs. SUPPORT INFO: Changing into clean attire before beginning work reduces the amount of microorganisms introduced into the Central Service Department and other restricted areas. It also insures staff members do not carry potentially pathogenic microorganisms home
		Hair covering that covers all head and facial hair except eyebrows and eyelashes.
		Shoes with non-skid soles.
		Personnel are not wearing watches or other jewelry. SUPPORT INFO: Watches and jewelry can harbor microorganisms which can be transmitted into and out of the processing area.
		Proper hand hygiene stations are in place.
		Proper protective attire is available. Fluid resistant gowns, masks, face shields, eye protection, gloves. SUPPORT INFO: Proper PPE is designed to protect workers from exposure to microorganisms that may be in the decontamination area.
YES	NO	CLIMATE CONTROL
		Clean area is designed with positive air pressure.
		Decontamination area is under negative air pressure.
		Decontamination area temperature is 60°F to 65°F.
		Decontamination area humidity levels are 30% to 60%.
		Decontamination area air exchanges are at least 10 per hour.
		Preparation and packaging area temperature is 68°F to 73°F.
		Preparation and packaging area humidity is 30% to 60%.
		Preparation and packaging area has at least 10 air exchanges per hour.
		Clean/Sterile storage area is 64°F to 75°F or lower.
		Clean/Sterile storage area humidity is less than 70%.
		Clean/Sterile storage area air exchanges are at least 4 per hour

Central Sterile and Decontamination Areas *Continued*

YES	NO	STORAGE OF INSTRUMENTS
		<p>Area designated for sterile storage are either open (rack) or closed (cabinet) storage units.</p> <p>SUPPORT INFO: If open rack systems are used for storage of instruments, they should have a solid bottom so that items stored on the lower shelves are protected from contamination during housekeeping tasks.⁵ PP 106 For more detailed standards for design requirement for central sterile work areas can be found in ANSI/AAMI ST79</p>
YES	NO	WATER QUALITY
		<p>Facility water is purified.</p> <p>SUPPORT INFO: Whether the water used comes from a municipal water source, a natural aquifer, or is surface water, it must be purified to provide the proper quality of final rinse water for the instrument cleaning process.⁵</p>
		<p>Water samples are obtained from each site that is used as a final rinse in manual and mechanical processes (ultrasonic, washer sterilizer, cart washer, and washer decontaminator/disinfectant).</p>
YES	NO	CARE OF CLEANING ITEMS
		<p>Brushes, cloths, sponges and other items including stylets and high-pressure nozzles for water and air are all clean and in good repair.</p> <p>SUPPORT INFO: Brushes should be disposable but if reused, they should be cleaned of visible soil, and be subjected to a cold or hot sterilization process at least daily to assure they are not a source of contamination.</p>
		<p>Wash cloths should be low or lint-free.</p>
		<p>Sponges are replaced daily.</p>
		<p>Abrasive brushes should never be used because they can scratch the surface of instruments and accelerate corrosion.</p>
		<p>Bowie-Dick Test is used with sterilizers with a pre-vacuum cycle. This test is run every day before the pre-vacuum cycles are used.</p>
		<p>Confirm daily routine Bowie-Dick Test procedures are performed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Precondition (warm up) the sterilizer according to the sterilizer manufacturer's recommendations. ■ Bowie-Dick should be placed in a test pack by itself in an empty chamber on the bottom shelf over the drain. ■ Set the sterilizer for a 2.5-minute exposure at 273°F. NOTE: Exposure time should never exceed 4 minutes, and no drying time is necessary. <p>SUPPORT INFO: This test is performed on pre-vac cycles only, and it checks the efficiency of the sterilizer's air removal system during the pre-vac cycle to detect inadequate air removal or air leaks in the chamber. Failure of the Bowie-Dick Test</p>
		<p>Check to be sure biological and chemical indicators are being used and documented.</p> <p>SUPPORT INFO: Chemical indicators should be used to routinely monitor each package, tray, or rigid sterilization containers to detect problems due to improper processing that render the packaging contents unfit for use. Chemical indicators should be placed in the area of the package, tray or container considered to be least accessible to steam penetration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Biological indicators demonstrate whether all required conditions including air removal and steam presentation were adequate to achieve sterilization.
		<p>Is there a process in place to alert infection control of any failures of the Bowie-Dick Test, biological or chemical indicator fails?</p>