Definitions related to Perioperative Environmental Cleaning

The definitions provided below can be used by perioperative personnel in developing policies and procedures for their health care organization.

**Benchmark**
A process of comparing a practice’s performance with an external standard. A comparative “best” as a baseline for improvement.

**Clean**
The absence of visible dust, soil, debris, blood, or other potentially infectious material.

**Disinfection**
A process that kills most forms of microorganisms on inanimate surfaces.

**Dwell time**
The amount of time required for contact of a chemical agent with a surface.

**End of procedure cleaning**
Cleaning and disinfecting the operating room or the procedural room between patients throughout the day.

**Enhanced environmental cleaning**
Environmental cleaning practices that are implemented to prevent the spread of infections or outbreaks and promote consistent and standardized cleaning procedures that extend beyond routine cleaning.

**Hand hygiene**
A generic term that applies to all measures related to hand condition and decontamination.

**High touch**
Frequently touched object or surface.

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
Specialized equipment or clothing for eyes, face, head, body, and extremities; protective clothing; respiratory devices; and protective shields and barriers designed to protect the worker from injury or exposure to a patient’s blood, tissue, or body fluids. Used by health care workers and others whenever necessary to protect themselves from the hazards of processes or environments, chemical hazards, or mechanical irritants encountered in a manner capable of causing injury or impairment in the function of any part of the body through absorption, inhalation, or physical contact.

**Restricted area:** A designated space contained within the semi-restricted area and accessible only through a semi-restricted area. The restricted area includes the operating and other rooms in which surgical or other invasive procedures are performed. Personnel in the restricted areas should wear surgical attire and cover head and facial hair. Masks should be worn when the wearer is in the presence of open sterile supplies or persons who are completing or have completed a surgical hand scrub. Only
authorized personnel and patients accompanied by authorized personnel should be admitted to this area. 4

**Safety Data Sheets**
The Hazard Communication Standard requires chemical manufacturers, distributors, or importers to provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) (formerly known as Material Safety Data Sheets or MSDSs) to communicate the hazards of hazardous chemical products. Employers must ensure that SDSs are readily accessible to employees. As of June 1, 2015, new SDSs will be required to be in a uniform format, and include product identification, hazard(s) identification regarding the chemical, composition/information on ingredients, first-aid measures, fire-fighting measures, accidental release measures, handling and storage, exposure controls/personal protection, physical and chemical properties, stability and reactivity, toxicological information, ecological information, disposal considerations, transport information, regulatory information, and other information. 5

**Semi-restricted area:** The peripheral support areas of the surgical suite. The area may include storage areas for equipment and clean and sterile supplies; work areas for processing instruments; sterilization processing room(s); scrub sink areas; corridors leading from the unrestricted area to the restricted areas of the surgical suite; and the entrances to locker rooms, preoperative admission area, the PACU, and sterile processing. This area is entered directly from the unrestricted area past a nurse’s station or from other areas. Personnel in the semi-restricted area should wear surgical attire and cover all head and facial hair. 16 Access to the semi-restricted area should be limited to authorized personnel and patients accompanied by authorized personnel. 4

**Standard precautions**
The primary strategy for successful infection control and reduction of worker exposure. Precautions used for care of all patients regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infectious status. 2pg272

**Performance improvement**
The continuous study and adaptation of a healthcare organization’s functions and processes to increase the probability of achieving desired outcomes and to better meet the needs of individuals and other users of services.

**Regulated medical waste**
Liquid or semi-liquid blood or other potentially infectious materials, contaminated items that would release blood or other potentially infectious materials in a liquid or semi-liquid state if compressed, items that are caked with dried blood or other potentially infectious materials and are capable of releasing these materials during handling, contaminated sharps, and pathological and microbiological wastes containing blood or other potentially infectious materials. 2pg272

**Terminal cleaning**
A thorough environmental cleaning that is performed at the end of each day when the area is being used. 2pg272

**Turnover clean**
Cleaning and disinfecting performed in a room between patients throughout the day.

**Unrestricted area**
An area of the building that is not defined as semi-restricted or restricted. This area includes a central control point for designated personnel to monitor the entrance of patients, personnel, and materials into the semi-restricted areas. This area may include locker rooms, break rooms, offices, waiting rooms, the preoperative admission area, Phase I and Phase II postanesthesia care units (PACUs), and access to procedure rooms (eg, endoscopy rooms, laser treatment rooms). Street clothes are permitted in this area. Public access to the area may be limited based on the facility's policy and procedures.  


