NEW Event-related sterility definition

Sterility maintenance that is not based on expiration dating but rather factors such as the quality of packaging material, the storage conditions, the methods and conditions of transport, the amount and conditions of handling, or environmental conditions (eg, humidity, exposure to airborne contaminants). Glossary

Cover the sterile field if it will not be used immediately or during periods of increased activity.

NEW If the sterile field is in use, the portion of the sterile field that will not be immediately used may be covered.

• When covering the entire sterile field, use a sterile drape designed for this purpose or use the sterile two-“cuffed”-drape method:
  - Place the first drape horizontally over the table or other area to be covered, with the cuff at or just beyond the halfway point.
  - Place the second drape from the opposite side of the table with the cuff positioned so that it completely covers the cuff of the first drape.

• When covering a sterile field, place the cover in a manner that allows it to be removed without contaminating the sterile field.

• Remove the drapes by placing the hands within the cuff on the top drape and lifting the drape up and away from the table and toward the person removing the drape. Remove the second drape from the opposite side in the same manner. 6.3.1.

• NEW Have an interdisciplinary team that includes an infection preventionist develop and implement measures to minimize risk of contamination to covered sterile fields. These measures may include a posted sign, limited traffic, or direct observation. 6.3.2.

Keep the doors to the operative or invasive procedure room closed as much as possible except during the entry and exit of patients, required personnel, and necessary equipment.

• Limit door opening.

• Have an interdisciplinary team of key stakeholders develop and implement interventions to decrease door openings. 7.5.1.

NEW When a unidirectional ultraclean air delivery system (eg, laminar airflow) is in use, position the surgical site and instrument tables within the air curtain of the system, if possible.

• The unidirectional ultraclean air delivery system impact area may be visually identified on the OR floor. 6.4.1.

• When a horizontal unidirectional ultraclean air delivery system is in use, do not stand or walk between the airflow curtain and the sterile field or surgical wound. 6.4.2.
**TAKEAWAY**

NEW Position heater-cooler devices away from the sterile field, and direct the airflow exhaust of the equipment away from the sterile field.

**EXPLANATION**

- When heater-cooler devices are used in an OR with a unidirectional ultraclean air delivery system, positioning equipment outside of the air curtain and away from the sterile field may help decrease ventilation disruptions and turbulent airflow. **6.5.**

NEW When using intraoperative debridement devices with irrigation (ie, hydrosurgery, pulse lavage, low-frequency ultrasonic debridement) on open, infected wounds, implement interventions to minimize personnel exposure to potentially infectious materials and reduce contamination of the sterile field.

- Interventions to minimize exposure and contamination may include:
  - wearing personal protective equipment;
  - wearing surgical helmet systems;
  - training personnel on the correct use of the device;
  - using the manufacturer's recommendations for power, irrigation, and suction settings that limit mist, splatter, or spray, if patient care allows; and
  - covering the active hand piece with a clear sterile drape. **6.6.**