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.\(^1\) A comparative “best” as a baseline for improvement.\(^1\)

**Clean**
The absence of visible dust, soil, debris, or blood.\(^2\) pg175

**Contact time**
The specific length of time a disinfectant must remain in contact with a microorganism to achieve disinfection. Synonyms: dwell time, kill time. \(^2\) pg175

**Disinfection**
A process that kills pathogenic and other microorganisms by physical or chemical means. \(^2\) pg175

**End of procedure cleaning**
Cleaning and disinfecting the operating room or the procedural room after each patient has left the area between patients throughout the day. Cleaning and disinfecting after each patient has left the area includes removing trash and contaminated linens, cleaning and disinfecting all items used for patient care; cleaning and disinfecting the floor when visibly soiled or potentially soiled by blood or body; and cleaning and disinfecting the walls when visibly soiled. \(^2\) pg164

Synonym: turnover cleaning.

**Enhanced environmental cleaning:**
Cleaning of surfaces that extends beyond routine cleaning and is performed following the care of a patient who is infected or colonized with a multidrug-resistant organism. \(^2\) pg175

**Environmental cleaning**
The process of cleaning, disinfecting, and monitoring for cleanliness. \(^2\) pg175

**Hand hygiene**
Any activities related to hand condition and cleansing. \(^3\) pg310

**High touch object**
A frequently touched item or surface. \(^2\) pg176

**Personal protective equipment (PPE)**
Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, helmets, gloves, face shields, goggles, facemasks and/or respirators or other equipment designed to protect the wearer from injury or the spread of infection or illness. 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 zone**
A designated space contained within the semi-restricted zone and accessible only through a semi-restricted zone. The restricted zone includes the operating and other rooms in which surgical or other invasive procedures are performed. Personnel in the restricted zones should wear clean surgical attire, clean shoes, and cover scalp, hair, and beard. 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.

**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.

**Semi-restricted zone**
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 zone past a nurse’s station or from other areas. Personnel in the semi-restricted zone should wear clean surgical attire, clean shoes, and cover scalp and hair. Access to the semi-restricted area should be limited to authorized personnel and patients accompanied by authorized personnel.

**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. Examples of standard precautions include performing hand hygiene; providing
a patient with a clean environment; wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when the possibility exists for exposure to blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious organisms; practicing respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette; using safe injection practices; and cleaning reusable medical equipment for one patient according to the manufacturer’s instructions for use.  

Performance improvement activities
Measuring the team members performance in practice, engaging team members in educational experiences, integrating learning into patient care, and re-evaluating their performance.  

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.  

Scheduled cleaning
Periodic cleaning (eg, weekly, monthly) of areas and equipment that are not cleaned daily or after every use.

Terminal cleaning
Thorough environmental cleaning that is performed at the end of each day the room or area is used.  

Unrestricted zone
An area of the building that is accessible from the exterior of the building, other unrestricted areas, or semi-restricted areas and street clothes are permitted in this area. This area may include 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, and preoperative and postoperative care areas. Public access to the area may be limited based on the facility's policy and procedures.


9. How is a performance improvement activity defined? Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.