This brochure has been developed as part of the Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) Aseptic Technique Implementation Toolkit.

Content adapted from original resources developed by Department of Health and Human Services, Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit (Tasmania), Princess Alexandra Hospital (Queensland), SA Health (South Australia) and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (South Australia).

References:


Aseptic technique is an important clinical practice that reduces the risk of patients acquiring an infection during invasive clinical procedures. Aseptic technique aims to prevent pathogenic organisms, in sufficient quantity to cause infection, from being introduced to susceptible sites by hands, surfaces and equipment.

**Infection Control Measures**

**Hand hygiene:**
- Effective hand hygiene is an essential part of AT.
- For standard aseptic procedures, routine hand hygiene should be performed using neutral pH soap and running water (duration of entire wash – 60 seconds) or an alcohol-based hand rub (duration of entire rub 20–30 seconds).
- For surgical aseptic procedures, surgical hand scrub is required using an approved antimicrobial skin cleanser or waterless hand rub formulation.

**Non-touch technique:**
- Non-touch technique is required at all times to maintain asepsis. Non-touch technique is a technique where the clinician’s hands do not touch, and even when sterile gloves are used, touching of key parts or key sites should not be touched unless necessary to do so.

**Gloves use:**
- Sterile gloves are used for all surgical aseptic procedures. Non-sterile gloves are typically the gloves of choice for standard aseptic procedures and are used if potential body fluid exposure or contact with harmful substances may occur.

**Use of other protective personal equipment (PPE):**
- Other PPE should be worn according to standard precautions to reduce the risk of blood and body fluid exposure to the clinician. Maximum barrier precautions may be required during some invasive procedures.

**Standard AT**
1. Perform risk assessment.
2. Perform hand hygiene.
3. Clean the tray/trolley/work surface.
4. Remove gloves if used.
5. Perform hand hygiene.
6. Prepare sterile (a)septic field using a non-touch technique or the equivalent.
7. Position and prepare patient.
8. Commence procedure.
9. Remove gloves if used.

**Surgical AT**
1. Perform risk assessment.
2. Perform hand hygiene.
3. Clean the tray/trolley/work surface.
4. Prepare sterile (a)septic field using a non-touch technique or the equivalent.
5. Position and prepare patient.
6. Perform hand hygiene.
7. Prepare sterile (a)septic field using a non-touch technique or the equivalent.
8. Position and prepare patient.
9. Remove gloves if used.
11. If required apply non-sterile or sterile gloves.
12. Perform procedure using non-touch technique.
13. Remove gloves & perform hand hygiene.
14. Discard sharps safely, dispose of waste, clean equipment as per local protocol.
15. Perform hand hygiene.

**Risk Assess**
1. Perform risk assessment.
2. Perform hand hygiene.
3. Manage environment.
4. Apply environmental controls.
5. Risk assess.
6. Prepare for procedure.
7. Perform procedure.
8. Manage procedure.

**Infection Control Measures**

- Use of other protective personal equipment (PPE):
- Approved antimicrobial skin cleanser or waterless hand rub formulation.

- Risk Assess
- Perform hand hygiene.
- Manage environment.
- Apply environmental controls.
- Risk assess.

- Prepare for procedure.
- Perform procedure.
- Manage procedure.
- Perform for procedure.
- Risk assess.

- For Surgical aseptic procedure
- Surgical AT

- Standard AT