

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:

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Applying Aseptic Technique



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control



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 procedure**, 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 procedure** surgical hand scrub is required using an approved antimicrobial skin cleanser or waterless hand rub formulation

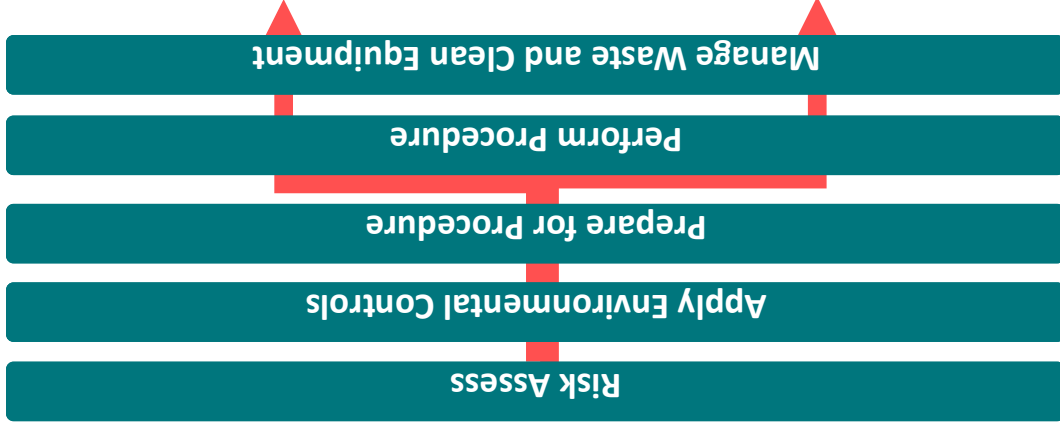
Non-touch technique

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 thereby contaminate key parts and key sites. Even when sterile gloves are used, touching of key parts and key sites should not be touched unless necessary to do so.

Glove use:

If it is necessary to touch key parts or key sites directly, sterile gloves are used to minimise the risk of contamination. Also, if you are not familiar or experienced with the procedure and feel it is likely key parts or sites might be touched select sterile gloves. Otherwise, non-sterile gloves are typically the gloves of choice for standard aseptic procedures and are required if potential body fluid exposure or contact with harmful substances may occur. Sterile gloves are used for all surgical aseptic procedures.

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 to reduce the risk to the patient of acquiring a healthcare associated infection. Refer to your local policy if unsure.



Surgical AT	Standard AT
1. Perform risk assessment.	1. Perform risk assessment.
2. Manage environmental factors.	2. Manage environmental factors
3. Apply PPE as required (e.g. hat & mask to protect aseptic field).	3. Perform hand hygiene.
4. Perform hand hygiene.	4. Clean the tray/trolley/work surface. Allow to dry before use.
5. Clean the tray/trolley/work surface.	5. Gather equipment.
6. Allow to dry before use.	6. Perform hand hygiene.
7. Gather equipment.	7. Prepare general aseptic field using a non-touch technique.
8. Prepare critical aseptic field using a non-touch technique.	8. Position and prepare patient - wear gloves if potential body fluid exposure or contact with harmful substances.
9. Position and prepare patient - wear gloves if potential body fluid exposure or contact with harmful substances.	9. Remove gloves if used.
10. Remove gloves if used.	10. Perform hand hygiene.
11. Once ready to commence the procedure surgical wash.	11. If required apply non-sterile or sterile gloves.
12. Apply sterile gown and gloves.	12. Perform procedure using non touch technique.
13. If required add sterile drapes.	13. Remove gloves & perform hand hygiene.
14. Perform procedure using non touch technique.	14. Discard sharps safely, dispose of waste, clean equipment as per local protocol.
15. Remove gloves & perform hand hygiene.	15. Perform hand hygiene.
16. Discard sharps safely, dispose of waste, clean equipment as per local protocol.	
17. Perform hand hygiene.	