Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Autoclaves

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Cleaning

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Critical equipment

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Manual cleaning

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Mechanical cleaning

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Noncritical equipment

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Semicritical equipment

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Spaulding Classification

The removal of foreign material (e.g., soil, organic material) from objects; required before disinfection and sterilization can occur since foreign material interferes with the effectiveness of these processes.

A type of mechanical cleaner that operates by exposing instruments, devices, and items to direct steam, under pressure, at specific temperatures (between 121°C [250°F] and 132°C [270°F]).

The use of friction produced by rubbing or scrubbing surfaces to clean equipment.

Equipment that must be free from all microbial contamination when it enters sterile tissue, bone, or the vascular system; a Spaulding Classification category.

Equipment that does not need to be sterile, but it should only come into contact with intact skin; a Spaulding Classification category.

The use of a machine to remove debris and soil from equipment.

A system that divides medical equipment into three risk-based categories: critical, semicritical, and noncritical.

Equipment that should be free from all microorganisms (although small numbers of bacterial spores may be present) when it comes in contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin during use; a Spaulding Classification category.

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Ultrasonic cleaners

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Washer-decontaminators

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Washer-disinfectors

Module 5
Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term
Washer-sterilizers

Module 5
Section D: Environment of Care

Term
High-touch surfaces

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Air changes per hour (ACH)

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Air pressure balancing

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Black water

A type of mechanical cleaner that operates in a similar fashion to washer-disinfectors, applying water circulation and detergents to remove soil. These units can also apply a timed heat process (for example, 93°C [199°F], for ten minutes).

A type of mechanical cleaner that operates by sending ultrasonic waves through a liquid solution to disrupt bonds that hold soils to surfaces.

A type of mechanical cleaner that operates using rotating spray arms for a wash cycle, followed by a steam sterilization cycle (140°C [285°F]).

A type of mechanical cleaner that operates much like a dishwasher, using water and detergents to remove soil from equipment.

The number of times the air volume of a given space is replaced in one hour.

Surfaces and items that are found within the patient zone, which includes the patient or resident and their immediate surroundings. In LTC settings, this would refer specifically to the residents' rooms, but may also refer to certain common areas.

Waste water containing sewage contaminants.

Describes the pressure relationships with respect to the surrounding area or corridor and can be positive (excess air supply in the room), negative (air drawn into the room), or neutral.

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Deionized water

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Gray water

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Negative air pressure

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Neutral air pressure

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Positive air pressure

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Potable water

Water (as from a sink or bath) that does not contain serious contaminants (as from toilets or diapers).

Purified water that has had charged ions removed; it is used for various applications within healthcare, including the laboratory.

Defined as filtration with efficiency of 99.97% in removing particles 0.3 micron or more in size.

Composed of everything included in the overall air-handling system for any facility. These systems supply, filter, condition (meaning heat, cool, humidify, or dehumidify), and exhaust air using a wide range of designs and equipment.

Refers to situations where the air pressure is the same between two adjacent rooms.

Used as an isolation measure to keep microbes from escaping from rooms, and for residents with infectious airborne diseases, such as tuberculosis, measles, and varicella.

Water suitable for drinking.

Used to keep microbial contamination out of rooms, and for immunosuppressed residents, such as those undergoing bone marrow transplantation.

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Reverse osmosis water

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Antimicrobial fabric

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Condition/drying area

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Contaminated laundry

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Decontamination

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Extraction area

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Folding area

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Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Foreign object

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Fiber-based substrates to which antimicrobial agents have been applied, either at the surface or incorporated into the fibers, rendering a product that kills or inhibits the growth of microorganisms.

Water that has been forced through a special membrane, under pressure, producing highly purified water, which typically requires remineralizing with essential trace elements before use; it is used for various applications within healthcare, including in dialysis.

According to OSHA, laundry that has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM), or may contain sharps.

An area where, after extraction, textiles are either conditioned (partly dried) or fully dried in a dryer or tumbler.

An area where excess water is removed from textiles after laundering, but before conditioning or drying.

The use of physical or chemical means to remove, inactivate, or destroy bloodborne pathogens on a surface; or the use of disinfectants to render the item incapable of transmitting infectious particles, so that the item is made safe for handling, use, or disposal.

Non-textile objects or items (e.g., instruments, disposable devices, sharps, personal resident information, etc.) that may potentially harm people or laundry equipment if left among the textiles.

An area where textiles are folded.

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Functional separation/barrier

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Hygienically clean

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Other potentially infectious material (OPIM)

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Processed

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Receiving area

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Regulated waste

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Soiled

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Staging

A clean state, free of pathogens (or in sufficiently low numbers) so as to minimize risk of infection.

An activity or structure that separates one movement, action, or space from another.

Items that have been laundered, cleaned, disinfected, or sterilized (as appropriate), so that they are safe to use as intended.

The following human body fluids: semen; vaginal secretions; cerebrospinal, synovial, pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, or amniotic fluids; saliva in dental procedures; bodily fluids that are visibly contaminated with blood, and all bodily fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between them; and any unfixed tissue or organ (other than intact skin) from a human (living or dead). Also included are HIV-containing cell, tissue, or organ cultures, as well as HIV- or HBV-containing culture mediums or other solutions; and blood, organs, or other tissues from experimental animals infected with HIV or HBV.

A 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. (OSHA)

An area where soiled textiles are sorted, usually by textile category and sometimes by degree of soiling or color.

A process for preparing the textiles for delivery and having them wrapped and ready for transport.

A textile product that has been used or worn and soiled by perspiration, bodily oils, or one of the many other items to which it may have been exposed.

Module 5
Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Washing (processing) area

Module 5
Section G: Construction and Maintenance

Term
Commissioning

Module 5
Section G: Construction and Maintenance

Term
Infection control risk assessment (ICRA)

Module 5
Section G: Construction and Maintenance

Term
infection control risk mitigation recommendation (ICRMR)

Module 5
Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Biological indicators (BIs)

Module 5
Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Chemical indicators (CIs)

Module 5
Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Contact time

Module 5
Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Disinfection

A process that verifies delivery of new construction according to contract specifications.

An area where soiled textiles are washed and in which such equipment as washers, extractors, washer-extractors, continuous-batch washers and/or continuous processing systems are located; also known as the wash floor.

These written plans describe work process and equipment requirements to manage potential infection risks from proposed risk.

A process to assess the impact that construction and renovation work in healthcare facilities has on IPC programs and practices and to ensure that new construction is designed to meet the needs of the anticipated resident population.

Devices used to detect potential sterilization process failures that could result from incorrect packaging, incorrect loading of the sterilizer, or malfunctions of the sterilizer.

Test systems containing viable microorganisms providing a defined resistance to a specific sterilization process; provide information on whether necessary conditions were met to kill a specified number of microorganisms for a given sterilization process. (ANSI/AAMI, ISO)

Thermal or chemical destruction of pathogenic and other types of microorganisms.

The stated amount of time a disinfectant needs in order to be effective against microorganisms; also known as “wet time” or "dwell time."

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Immediate-use steam sterilization (IUSS)

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Physical monitors

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Process challenge device (PCD)

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Sterile processing

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Sterilization

The visible monitors on equipment that indicate whether the correct sterilizing parameters were met.

The shortest possible time between a sterilized item's removal from the sterilizer and its aseptic transfer to the sterile field.

The department or area in a healthcare facility that processes and controls sterile and nonsterile medical equipment, supplies, and devices used in patient care.

A device with a defined resistance to a sterilization process used to routinely monitor sterilizer efficacy and perform qualification testing of sterilizers.

The process by which all forms of microbial life are destroyed or eliminated.