

<div>Module 5</div> <div>Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning</div> <div>Term</div> <div>Autoclaves</div> <div>APIC CIC Learning System© 2025</div>	<div>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]).</div>
<div>Module 5</div> <div>Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning</div> <div>Term</div> <div>Cleaning</div> <div>APIC CIC Learning System© 2025</div>	<div>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.</div>
<div>Module 5</div> <div>Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning</div> <div>Term</div> <div>Critical equipment</div> <div>APIC CIC Learning System© 2025</div>	<div>Equipment that must be free from all microbial contamination when it enters sterile tissue, bone, or the vascular system; a Spaulding Classification category.</div>
<div>Module 5</div> <div>Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning</div> <div>Term</div> <div>Manual cleaning</div> <div>APIC CIC Learning System© 2025</div>	<div>The use of friction produced by rubbing or scrubbing surfaces to clean equipment.</div>

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Mechanical cleaning

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

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Noncritical equipment

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

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Semicritical equipment

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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

Spaulding Classification

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

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Ultrasonic cleaners

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

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Washer-decontaminators

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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).

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Washer-disinfectors

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

Module 5

Section A: Equipment Classifications and Cleaning

Term

Washer-sterilizers

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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]).

Module 5
Section D: Environment of Care

Term
Cold chain

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A temperature-controlled supply chain that includes all vaccine-related equipment and procedures.

Module 5
Section D: Environment of Care

Term
High-touch surfaces

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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.

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Air changes per hour (ACH)

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

Module 5
Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Air pressure balancing

APIC CIC Learning System

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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
Black water

APIC CIC Learning System

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Waste water containing sewage contaminants.

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Deionized water

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Gray water

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

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

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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.

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term

High-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filtration

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term

Negative air pressure

APIC CIC Learning System

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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.

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term

Neutral air pressure

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

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term

Positive air pressure

APIC CIC Learning System

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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
Potable water

APIC CIC Learning System

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Water suitable for drinking.

Module 5

Section E: Ventilation and Water Management

Term
Reverse osmosis water

APIC CIC Learning System

© 2025

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.

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Antimicrobial fabric

APIC CIC Learning System

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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.

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Condition/drying area

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term

Contaminated laundry

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term

Decontamination

APIC CIC Learning System

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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.

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term

Extraction area

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term

Folding area

APIC CIC Learning System

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An area where textiles are folded.

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Foreign object

APIC CIC Learning System

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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.

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Functional separation/barrier

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Hygienically clean

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Other potentially infectious material (OPIM)

APIC CIC Learning System

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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.

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Processed

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Receiving area

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Regulated waste

APIC CIC Learning System

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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)

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Soiled

APIC CIC Learning System

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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
Staging

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

Module 5

Section F: Waste and Laundry Management

Term
Washing (processing) area

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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.

Module 5

Section G: Construction and Maintenance

Term
Commissioning

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section G: Construction and Maintenance

Term
Infection control risk assessment (ICRA)

APIC CIC Learning System

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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.

Module 5

Section G: Construction and Maintenance

Term

infection control risk mitigation recommendation (ICRMR)

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Biological indicators (BIs)

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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)

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Chemical indicators (CIs)

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Contact time

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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
Disinfection

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Immediate-use steam sterilization (IUSS)

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Physical monitors

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term
Process challenge device (PCD)

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Sterile processing

APIC CIC Learning System

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

Module 5

Section B: Disinfection, Sterilization, and Reprocessing

Term

Sterilization

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