

Glossary

Preamble:

For the purposes of this manual, specific terms and definitions are provided below to facilitate consistency of interpretation and application of the Guidelines within and across various health care settings.

Administrative center: Reserved.

Airborne infection isolation room: A single-occupancy room for patient care where environmental factors are controlled in an effort to minimize the transmission of those infectious agents usually spread from person to person by droplet nuclei associated with coughing and inhalation. (Such rooms typically have specific requirements for controlled ventilation, air pressure, and air filtration.)

Ambulatory care: A defined health care encounter(s) of less than 24 hours in duration that requires direct professional health care support within a specific facility.

Ambulatory surgical facility: Any surgical facility organized for the purpose of providing procedural, invasive surgical care to patients with the expectation that they will be recovered sufficiently to be discharged in less than a 24-hour period.

Bed size: For purposes of planning minimum clearances around beds, unless specified otherwise by the functional program, the rectangular dimensions to be utilized are width: 40 inches (101.6 centimeters) and length: 96 inches (2.43 meters).

Bioterrorism: The use, or threat of use, of biological agents to intimidate a political entity or population group.

Clear floor area: The built floor area available for a defined space. Such area would not include other defined spaces (e.g., anterooms, vestibules, toilet rooms, closets, lockers, wardrobes, fixed base cabinets, wall-hung counters, plumbing fixtures, and alcoves).

Differential pressure: A measurable difference in air pressure that creates a directional airflow between adjacent spaces.

Environment of care: Those features in a built health care entity that are created, structured, and maintained to support quality health care.

Handwashing station: An area providing a sink with hot and cold water supply and a faucet that facilitates easy on/off/mixing capabilities. The station includes provision of cleansing agents and drying capability.

Housekeeping: Services anywhere within a health care facility that include general cleaning and tidying and the provision and positioning of identified materials, e.g., soaps, towels, etc. (While routine disinfection protocols can be included in such a definition, the definition is not intended to include complex, non-routine disinfection procedures nor the non-routine disposition of hazardous materials such as potentially toxic drugs or other chemicals and radioactive wastes.)

Infection control risk assessment: A multidisciplinary organizational process that

- focuses on reduction of risk from infection;
- acts through phases of facility planning, design, construction, or renovation; and
- coordinates and weighs knowledge about infection, infectious agents, and care environment and associated human factors with anticipated impacts from site changes and related projects for leadership and other organizational customers.

(This process utilizes expertise in infectious disease, infection control, facility design, engineering, construction, ventilation, epidemiology, and safety as circumstances may indicate.)

Invasive procedure: For the purposes of this document, any procedure that penetrates the protective surfaces of a patient's body (i.e., skin, mucous membrane, cornea) and that is performed with an aseptic field (procedural site). Not included in this category are placement of peripheral intravenous needles or catheters used to administer fluids and medications, including dialysis procedures; gastrointestinal endoscopies (i.e., sigmoidoscopies); insertion of urethral catheters; and other similar procedures. ~~Reserved.~~

Minimum clearance: The shortest unencumbered distance from the outermost dimensions of a specified object (often a patient bed) and specified, fixed reference points (e.g., walls, cabinets, sinks, and doors).

Monolithic ceiling: A ceiling constructed with a surface free of fissures, cracks, and crevices. Any penetrations such as lights, diffusers, and access panels shall be sealed or gasketed.

Nurse center: ~~Reserved.~~

Observation unit (emergency room): An area within an emergency department where one or more patients can be clinically monitored, assessed, and treated by staff for up to 24 hours. (By regulation, if such patients are "observed" for 24 consecutive hours or more, they have the status of inpatients.)

Office surgical facility: ~~Reserved.~~

Operating room: A room specifically designed for the performance of surgical procedures. (In common understanding, this means most types of surgical procedures, especially those involving the administration of anesthesia, multiple personnel, recovery room access, and a fully controlled environment.)

Perioperative: Patient care and other related supportive activities before, during, or after the operative event.

Protective environment: A bedded unit where severely immunosuppressed patients are cared for (e.g., bone marrow transplant units).

Sealed (tight) room: A room that meets specific ventilation requirements and must have a minimum air leakage to achieve a particular designed air quality, airflow direction, and pressure differential.

Small primary care inpatient facility: ~~Reserved.~~

Sub-acute care: A segment within a continuum of levels of care determined by patient acuity, clinical stability, and resource needs.

Surgical suite: A space that includes the operating room(s) and support areas.

Swing bed: A patient bed that may be used for varying clinical acuity levels. The built environment for such a bed must be consistent with the highest level of care acuity planned or provided.