



# Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center

## DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

### OPERATING ROOM

### POLICY AND PROCEDURE

---

**SUBJECT: BASIC ASEPTIC TECHNIQUE**

**Policy No.: OR 004**

**Revision Date: 08/2009**

**Effective Date: 11/2006**

**Page: 1**

---

**Purpose of Procedure:** To provide and maintain a safe environment for the surgical patient by decreasing exposure to infectious agents.

**Physician's Order Required:** No

**Performed By:** All members of the surgical team.

**Policy:**

1. A safe and sterile environment will be established and maintained throughout the surgical procedure.
2. The sterile field should be covered if it will not be used immediately eg, procedural delays, sterile field closure, multiple tables or during increased period of activity. If the sterile field is in use, the portion of the field that will not be used immediately may be covered.  
**KEY POINT:** OR environment is not sterile and potentially infectious organisms maybe be present in the air. Exposure to air may affect the event related sterility of the open sterile items and sterile fields.
3. Sterile fields will be prepared as close as possible to scheduled time of use and not covered.
4. Every team member will observe, report, and initiate corrective action for any events which may compromise the sterile field.
5. Conversation in the OR will be kept to a minimum.
6. All cables, tubing, etc. for equipment will be secured on the sterile field with a non-perforating drape clip.
7. Non-sterile equipment brought onto the sterile field will be draped with sterile material.
8. All personnel moving within or around a sterile field will do so in a manner to maintain the integrity of the sterile field.
9. Sterile dressing material will be applied before surgical drapes are removed to avoid contamination of incision.

**Procedural Steps:**

1. Perform hand antisepsis hands before donning sterile gowns and gloves.
2. Open and donning the sterile gown and gloves away from the sterile field.

**KEY POINT:** Gown is sterile in front from chest to level of sterile field. Sleeves are sterile from two inches above the elbow to gown cuff. Gown cuff should be considered unsterile and should be covered by sterile gloves at all times.

3. Sterile drapes will be used to establish a sterile field.

**KEY POINT:** Sterile drapes should be handled above waist level, placed on patient and on all furniture and equipment to be included in sterile field. Drapes will be handled as little as possible. Once in position, sterile drapes should not be moved or shifted.

4. Check the package integrity, chemical process indicator and if present, expiration date on all items to be placed on a sterile field.

**KEY POINT:** This check will be done by the unscrubbed person.

5. Present all sterile items to the scrubbed person or place them securely on the sterile field.

6. Secure all wrapper tails before placing an item on the sterile field.

7. When pouring solutions,

a. Place the receptacle near the edge of table or ensure it is held by a scrubbed person without splashing, pour the entire contents of the bottle into the receptacle

b. Label contents of all medications and solutions.

**KEY POINT:** What is not used during the procedure will be appropriately discarded.

---

**Reviewed by:** Jo-Ann Abesamis BSN, RN, CNOR.

**Reference:**

AORN. (2020). Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. Denver, CO: AORN.

Essentials of Perioperative Nursing, Fifth Edition

Reviewed -02/16

Reviewed -02/18

Revised- 08/2021

---