

Glossary

Specific terms and definitions are provided below to facilitate consistency in the interpretation and application of the Guidelines.

Adjacent: Not distant, nearby (close at hand).

Administrative areas: Designated spaces such as offices and meeting rooms that accommodate admission and discharge processes, medical records storage, medical and nursing administration, business management and financial services, human resources, purchasing, community services, education, and public relations.

Airborne infection isolation (AII) room: A room designated for persons having or suspected of having an infection that is spread through coughing or other ways of suspending droplets of pathogens into the air (e.g., tuberculosis, smallpox).

Ambulatory care: A defined health care encounter 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 invasive surgical care to patients with the expectation that they will be recovered sufficiently to be discharged in less than 24 hours.

Angiography: The radiographic visualization of blood vessels following introduction of contrast material for purposes of diagnosis.

Area: A particular extent of space or surface serving a defined function.

Authority having jurisdiction (AHJ): An individual or organization designated by a state or government agency to enforce building codes and other regulations related to construction projects.

Bariatric patient: A patient admitted specifically for bariatric care or a patient who is morbidly obese. For more information, see appendix items A1.2-5b and A1.2-6.4a in Chapter 1.2.

Bed size: Minimum rectangular dimensions for planning minimum clearances around beds—40 inches (101.6 centimeters) wide by 96 inches (2.43 meters) long.

Biological waste: Waste that contains or has come into contact with bacteria or other pathogens, blood, or body fluids.

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

Cardiac catheterization: Passage of a catheter through a vessel into the heart to inject contrast material, measure intracardiac pressures, and obtain blood samples. This is a diagnostic procedure and is a form of angiography as defined above.

Chemical waste: Waste that contains toxic, caustic, or otherwise dangerous chemicals.

Clear floor area: The floor area of a defined space that is available for functional use exclusive of toilet rooms, closets, lockers, wardrobes, alcoves, vestibules, anterooms, general circulation, and auxiliary work areas. Floor space below sinks, counters, cabinets, modular units, or other wall-hung equipment mounted to provide usable floor space counts toward “clear floor area.”

Client: A psychiatric patient or resident. For purposes of this document, “psychiatric patient” will refer to a psychiatric client in an inpatient or outpatient facility and “psychiatric resident” will refer to a psychiatric patient in a long term-care facility.

Clinical sink: A flushing-rim sink or “hopper” used for disposal of blood or body fluids (e.g., bedpan washing, drainage of suction canisters). This is not the same as a hand-washing sink or an instrument-cleaning sink (single- or double-sink type).

Continuing care nursery: A unit that provides care to children under one year of age, excluding neonates.

Cubicle: A space intended for human occupancy enclosed on multiple sides with full height or partial

partitions or curtains, with at least one opening and no door.

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

Directly accessible: Adjacent with a doorway, pass-through, or other opening connecting two spaces.

Documentation area: A work area associated with or near a patient care area where information specific to patients is recorded, stored, and reviewed to facilitate ready access by authorized individuals.

Emergency call system: Devices that are activated to indicate the need for staff assistance. Such devices produce an audible or visual indication (or both) or may be connected or transmit to an area alert monitor.

Environmental services (housekeeping): Services anywhere within a health care facility that provide general cleaning and tidying and supply identified cleaning materials (e.g., soaps, towels). (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.)

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

Examination/treatment room: A room with a bed, stretcher, or examination table and capability for periodic monitoring (e.g., measurement of blood pressure or pulse oximetry) in which procedures that do not require a specialized suite can be performed (e.g., pelvic examination, blood transfusion).

Facility: A discrete physical entity composed of various functional units as described within these Guidelines.

Hand sanitation dispenser: A unit that contains alcohol-based hand-washing rub (ABHR) or other FDA-approved solutions used for hand hygiene.

Hand-washing station: An area that provides a sink with hot and cold water supply and a faucet that facilitates easy on/off/mixing capabilities. The

station also provides cleansing agents and means for drying hands.

Health care facility: Any facility type listed in the table of contents of this book.

Immediately accessible: Available within the same unit.

Infection control risk assessment: A multidisciplinary organizational process that focuses on reducing risk from infection throughout facility planning, design, and construction (including renovation) activities. The environment, infectious agents, and human factors and the impact of the proposed project are considered by a multidisciplinary team that includes, at minimum, those with expertise in infectious disease, infection control, patient care, epidemiology, facility design, engineering, construction, and safety, as circumstances dictate.

Interventional catheterization: The use of dilating balloons and the placement of stents to treat occluded or narrowed blood vessels; procedures done to treat vascular disease that require radiographic imaging.

Interventional imaging: Therapeutic procedures that require radiographic visualization.

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 within an aseptic field (procedural site). Not included in this category are placement of peripheral intravenous needles or catheters, dialysis, bronchoscopy, endoscopy (e.g., sigmoidoscopy), insertion of urethral catheters, and similar procedures.

Low birth weight baby: A child born weighing less than 5.5 lbs. (2,500 gms.), regardless of gestational age.

Minimum clearance: The shortest unencumbered distance between 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. ("Lay-in" ceilings are not considered "monolithic.")

- Newborn intensive care unit (NICU):** A unit that provides care for medically unstable or critically ill newborns who require intensive interventions.
- Nursing locations:** Departments, units, rooms, spaces, or areas in which patient observation, nursing care, and treatment services rendered involve direct contact between patients/residents and staff.
- Observation unit:** An area usually associated with an emergency department where one or more patients can be clinically monitored, assessed, and treated by staff for up to 24 hours.
- Obstetrical suite:** This term will be used synonymously with “labor and delivery area.” It includes areas outside of the surgery suite where cesarean deliveries can be performed.
- Operating room:** A room designated and equipped for performing surgical operations that requires a restricted environment.
- Patient:** A person receiving medical, surgical, or psychiatric care in an inpatient or outpatient facility.
- Patient care area:** An area used primarily for the provision of clinical care to patients. Such care includes monitoring, evaluation, and treatment services.
- Perioperative:** Referring to patient care and other related support activities immediately before, during, or after an operative procedure.
- PHAMA:** patient handling and movement assessment.
- Premature baby:** A child who is born prior to 37 weeks of gestation.
- Procedure room:** A room designated for the performance of special procedures that do not require a restricted environment but may use sterile instruments or equipment (e.g., endoscopy, cystoscopy, laser procedures).
- Protective environment (PE):** A room or unit used to protect the profoundly immunosuppressed patient with prolonged neutropenia (i.e., a patient undergoing an allogeneic or autologous bone marrow/stem cell transplant) from common environmental airborne infectious microbes (e.g., *Aspergillus* spores). The differentiating factors between protective environment rooms and other patient rooms are the requirements for filtration and positive air pressure relative to adjoining spaces.
- Provisions for drinking water:** Availability of readily accessible potable water for patient, staff, and visitor needs. This may be provided in a variety of ways, including fountains and bottled water.
- Public areas:** Designated spaces freely accessible to the public. These include parking areas, secured entrances and areas, entrance lobbies, reception and waiting areas, public toilets, snack bars, cafeterias, vending areas, gift shops and other retail locations, health education libraries and meeting rooms, chapels, and gardens.
- Radioactive waste:** Waste containing radioactive materials.
- Readily accessible:** Available on the same floor.
- Regulated waste:** Waste regulated by federal, state, or local governments that requires special handling and disposal, including biological, chemical, or radioactive wastes.
- Resident:** A person living and receiving chronic or sub-acute care in an assisted living facility, skilled nursing facility, nursing home, or rehabilitation facility.
- Restricted area:** A designated space with limited access eligibility. Such space has one or more of the following attributes: specific signage; physical barriers; security controls and protocols that delineate requirements for monitoring, maintenance, attire, and use. (The term is often applied to operating rooms and suites.)
- Room:** A space enclosed by hard walls and having a door.
- Sealed (tight) room:** A room that meets specific ventilation requirements and has minimum air leakage to achieve a particular designed air quality, airflow direction, and pressure differential.
- Service areas:** Designated spaces that house auxiliary functions that do not routinely involve contact with patients, residents, clients, or the public (e.g., supply, processing, storage, and maintenance services such as pharmacy, dietary, bulk sterile processing, laundry processing and storage, housekeeping, engineering operations, and waste storage/holding facilities).

Special purpose room: Any room with a designated special purpose. The term is more general than “treatment room” and should not be used synonymously.

Subacute care: A category of care requiring less intensity of care/resources than acute care. It falls within a continuum of care determined by patient acuity, clinical stability, and resource needs.

Support areas (general): Where the word “room” or “office” is used, a separate, enclosed space for the one named function is intended. Otherwise, the described area is permitted to be a specific space in another room or common area.

Support areas (nursing units, diagnostic and treatment areas, etc.): Designated spaces or areas in which staff members perform auxiliary functions that support the main purpose of the unit or other location.

Support areas (patient/resident, families, and/or visitors): Designated spaces for the use of patients, residents, clients, registrants, or visitors (e.g., clothing change areas, dining rooms, toilet rooms, lounges) or families and visitors (e.g., waiting areas and lounges, children’s play areas, toilet rooms).

Support areas (staff): Designated spaces for the personal use of staff personnel (e.g., clothing change areas, toilets, showers, lounges, dining areas).

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

Sustainability: A means of configuring civilization and human activity so that society, its members, and its economies are able to meet their needs and express their greatest potential in the present, while preserving biodiversity and natural ecosystems in the long term; improving the quality of human life while living within the carrying capacity of supporting ecosystems.

Sustainable design: The art of designing physical objects, the built environment, and services to comply with principles of economic, social, and ecological sustainability.

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

Unit: An area or space usually dedicated to a single defined organizational function.