

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
additional precautions	Extra infection control measures used with patients who are, or are suspected to be, infected with or carrying highly transmissible organisms able to be spread by airborne, droplet or contact transmission.
aerosol	Fine mist or spray that may contain micro-organisms.
airborne precautions	Precautions required to protect against the spread of airborne infections ie infections that we spread by air-borne transmission
airborne transmission	Spread of infectious micro-organisms in the air, usually over a distance of more than a metre from the source.
alimentary canal	The passage for digestion of food from the mouth to the anus.
antibody	Substance the body produces to counter an antigen.
antigen	Substance that triggers an immune response from the body because it recognises it as alien.
antimicrobial	A chemical agent capable of destroying or inhibiting the growth of micro-organisms.
AS	Australian Standards
aseptic	Containing no infectious agents that may produce disease.
aseptic hand wash	Non-surgical hand wash lasting about one minute.
aseptic technique	<p>Aseptic technique refers to practices used by health care workers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the number of infectious agents</li> <li>• prevent or reduce the likelihood of transmission of infectious agents from one person or place to another</li> </ul> <p>and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• render and maintain objects and areas as free as possible from infectious agents.</li> </ul>

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Australian Standards	Documents detailing desired quality levels for products and procedures or specifications produced by Standards Australia – an independent body providing advice on many diverse aspects of the workforce. Identified by the code AS or AS/NZS and a date before a title.
autoclave	Steam-under-pressure steriliser
bactericidal	Capable of killing bacteria
baseline testing	Testing performed to establish a first reading or level – comparison can then be made with subsequent results.
biofilms	A film of proteins and micro-organisms that forms over the surface of foreign materials when it is in contact with tissue.
biological indicators	Bacterial spores
blood-borne	Transmitted by blood or blood products.
body fluids	Blood, mucus, vomit, semen, sweat, urine, faeces and all other fluids produced within the body.
body substances	Includes any human bodily secretion, excluding sweat, or substance other than blood.
carrier	Person who harbours an organism without showing signs of disease.
CJD	Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease
cleaning	Removal of foreign material from a surface by water, physical or mechanical action and a cleaning agent.
clinical waste	Waste arising from medical, veterinary, pharmaceutical and similar practices and having the potential to cause disease (eg animal waste, sharps, human tissue and laboratory waste).

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
colonisation	The process in which micro-organisms live and reproduce in the human body without causing disease.
contact precautions	Precautions required to protect against the spread of contact infections, ie infections that can be passed on by direct contact with an infected person.
critical body site	Sterile body tissue, cavity or bloodstream.
CSSD	Central Sterile Supplies Department
cytotoxic	Toxic (poisonous) to living cells.
detergents	Synthetic cleansing agents used with water.
disinfectant	A substance used on inanimate objects to kill a range of micro-organisms.
disinfection	Inactivation of non-sporing infectious agents by thermal or chemical means.
droplet precautions	Precautions required to protect against the spread of droplet infections, ie infections that are spread by droplet transmission.
droplet transmission	Transmission of infectious organisms by droplets in respiratory secretions.
enteral	Entering the body in a way that leads to the intestines (ie through the mouth and alimentary canal) of parenteral.
food-borne	Toxins, bacteria and other substances that are transmitted via food.
fungicidal	Capable of killing fungus
gastroenteritis	Inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract, including the stomach and intestine.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
general waste	Waste that is not clinical or related waste, ie waste that does not pose any more health risk than normal household waste.
HBV	Hepatitis B virus (a blood-borne virus)
HCV	Hepatitis C virus (a blood-borne virus)
health care establishments	Centres that deliver health care services on a commercial or public health basis, including hospitals, general practices, dentist clinics, community-based office practices, day surgery centres, domiciliary nursing services, alternative health providers, and other community services such as needle exchanges.
health care workers	People employed in a range of occupations in a health care facility.
high-level disinfection	Minimum recommended treatment for an item that cannot be sterilised and is to be used in a semi-critical site. The process reliably kills all micro-organisms unless there are high numbers of bacterial spores.
HIV	Human immunodeficiency virus (a blood-borne virus)
immunocompromised patient	A patient whose immune system is not fully functional, usually because of disease or immunosuppressive treatment.
infection	Invasion of body tissue by disease-causing organisms, usually producing symptoms such as fever, pus and inflammation.
infectious agents	The transmission carriers of pathogenic micro-organisms.
intermediate-level disinfection	Process that kills tubercle bacilli, vegetative bacteria, most viruses and fungi, but may not kill bacterial spores.
Legionella	Species of bacteria
low-level disinfection	Process that may kill most vegetative bacteria, some fungi and some viruses.
material safety data sheet (MSDS)	A document prepared by the manufacturer of a hazardous substance to identify it, describe its properties, uses, health risks and safe use.
micro-organism	A creature too small to be seen with the naked eye, the term includes bacteria, fungi, protozoa, some algae and viruses.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
MRSA	Methicillin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> – a resistant bacterial infection spread by touch and resistant to many antimicrobial agents.
MSDS	Materials Safety Data Sheet.
mucous membranes (mucosa)	The lining of various body cavities including the mouth, nose and passages leading to the stomach and lungs. The mucous lining lubricates and protects.
needlestick injury	An injury in which a used needle from a hypodermic syringe penetrates the skin.
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NOHSC	National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
non-critical body site	Body site with intact skin
nosocomial infection	An infection acquired while in hospital, ie one that is not present or incubating at the time of admission.
parenteral	Entering the body via a way other than the mouth and alimentary canal.
pathogen	Organism capable of causing disease
pathogenic	Able to cause disease
percutaneous	Through the skin
personal protective equipment	Equipment or clothing worn to reduce the risk of injury from or exposure to hazardous conditions.
PPE	Personal protective equipment.
ppm	Parts per million
prion	An infectious protein agent that causes fatal, neuro-degenerative diseases in humans or animals.
prophylaxis	Action to prevent disease
recapping	A device used for the resheathing of needles.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
Regulations	'Subsidiary' legislation, giving detailed rules related to Acts of Parliament.
related waste	Includes cytotoxic waste, pharmaceutical waste, chemical waste and radioactive waste.
reusable	Capable of being used again
routine hand wash	A hand wash that takes about 10 – 15 seconds.
semi-critical body site	Body-site with intact mucous membranes or non-intact skin.
sharps	Objects that can cut or pierce skin (eg needles, scalpel blades, contaminated glass, ampoules, spikes from IV sets and stillettes).
sharps container	A receptacle designed to relevant Australian Standards for sharps disposal.
single-use	May be used once only.
source of infection	Person or object from which an infection originates.
spore	A type of Gram positive bacterial cell that is thick-coated and highly resistant to heat and chemicals.
sporicidal	Capable of killing spores
standard precautions	Basic practices used in health care settings and applied to all patients to reduce risk of infectious transmission from both recognised and unrecognised infection sources.
Standards (AS)	Guides developed by Standards Australia to suggest appropriate quality levels for products or procedures.
statutory	Specified by Commonwealth, state or territory Law.
steam under pressure sterilisation	The recommended method for sterilising instruments and equipment that can withstand heat and moisture.
sterilant	A product capable of sterilising.
sterile packs	A package of sterile materials, instruments or linen.
sterile stock	A collection of sterile packs.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
sterilisation	Process that makes an item as free as possible from all forms of viable micro-organisms.
sterilising agent	Physical or chemical medium used in the sterilising process.
surgical wash	A hand wash that takes 5 minutes.
TGA	Therapeutic Goods Administration
triage	Deciding on the order of treatment of patients according to the urgency of each patient's illnesses or wounds.
vegetative bacteria	Bacteria in the growth and reproductive phase (ie not spores).
venipuncture	Puncture of a vein for a blood sample or for an intravenous injection.
virucidal	Capable of killing viruses
VRE	Vancomycin-resistant enterococci – a bacterial infection spread by touch and resistant to the antibiotic vancomycin.