

SOP Template: Sterile Procedure and Aseptic Technique Standards

This SOP establishes **sterile procedure and aseptic technique standards** to prevent contamination and ensure patient safety during medical and laboratory interventions. It covers the preparation and maintenance of sterile environments, proper hand hygiene, use of sterilized instruments, handling of sterile supplies, and protocols for invasive procedures. The goal is to minimize infection risk, promote consistent practice among healthcare providers, and uphold high-quality care standards.

1. Purpose

To outline standardized procedures for maintaining sterility and practicing aseptic techniques during all applicable medical and laboratory interventions.

2. Scope

- Applies to all healthcare personnel involved in patient care or laboratory interventions requiring sterility.
- Includes preparation, maintenance, and monitoring of sterile fields and procedures.

3. Responsibilities

- **Healthcare Providers:** Adhere to aseptic techniques and protocols as outlined.
- **Supervisors/Managers:** Ensure adequate training, compliance, and provision of necessary supplies.
- **Quality Assurance:** Conduct regular audits and address any breaches in aseptic technique.

4. Definitions

Term	Definition
Sterile	Free from all living microorganisms, including spores and viruses.
Aseptic Technique	Practices performed to minimize the risk of introducing pathogens during procedures.
Sterile Field	Designated area that is maintained free of microorganisms during a sterile procedure.

5. Procedure

- Hand Hygiene**
 - Perform thorough hand washing or use appropriate antiseptic hand rub before and after all procedures.
- Preparation of Sterile Field**
 - Use only sterilized supplies and instruments.
 - Don sterile gloves, gown, mask, and cap prior to setting up a sterile field.
 - Establish the sterile field in a clean, controlled environment.
- Maintenance of Sterile Field**
 - Limit movement and talking around sterile fields.
 - Replace contaminated items immediately.
 - Do not leave a sterile field unattended.
- Handling Sterile Supplies & Instruments**
 - Open packaging with care to avoid contamination.
 - Use sterile transfer forceps when needed.
 - Dispose of single-use items after procedure.
- Invasive Procedures**
 - Adhere to surgical hand scrub guidelines.
 - Follow specific department protocols for procedures (e.g., catheterization, wound care, IV insertion).
 - Document procedure details and any incidents of contamination.

6. Monitoring and Compliance

- Supervisors will observe and audit sterile techniques periodically.
- All breaches in aseptic technique must be reported, investigated, and documented.
- Continued education and competency assessments will be provided as needed.

7. References

- World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Infection Control Guidelines
- Facility-specific infection prevention and control policies

8. Revision History

Date	Version	Description	Author
2024-06-01	1.0	Initial SOP release	[Name/Title]