

SOP Template: Surgical Site Preparation and Aseptic Protocols

This SOP details **surgical site preparation and aseptic protocols**, encompassing preoperative skin cleansing, antiseptic application, sterile draping techniques, surgical hand antisepsis, use of sterile instruments and materials, and maintaining a sterile field throughout the procedure to minimize infection risk and promote patient safety during surgery.

1. Purpose

To provide standardized procedures for surgical site preparation and adherence to aseptic techniques, thereby minimizing surgical site infections and promoting patient safety.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all surgical staff and healthcare personnel involved in preoperative preparation, intraoperative procedures, and postoperative care within the surgical suite.

3. Responsibilities

- **Surgical Team:** Ensure compliance with aseptic technique at all times.
- **Scrub Nurse/Technician:** Prepare sterile instruments and materials.
- **Circulating Nurse:** Assist with site preparation and monitoring aseptic field.
- **All Staff:** Report any breach of aseptic technique immediately.

4. Procedure

1. **Preoperative Skin Cleansing**
 - Instruct patient to bathe or shower with antiseptic soap as directed prior to surgery.
 - Remove any jewelry, makeup, and nail polish from the surgical area.
2. **Antiseptic Application**
 - Apply appropriate antiseptic solution (e.g., chlorhexidine or povidone-iodine) to the surgical site, moving from the incision site outward in a circular motion.
 - Allow antiseptic to dry fully before draping.
3. **Sterile Draping**
 - Open sterile drapes using aseptic technique and cover the operative field without contaminating the sterile area.
 - Ensure drapes remain secure and uncompromised throughout the procedure.
4. **Surgical Hand Antisepsis**
 - Perform surgical hand scrub per institution policy (e.g., scrubbing for minimum recommended duration, using approved antiseptic agents).
 - Dry hands with sterile towels and don sterile gloves and gowns.
5. **Handling of Sterile Instruments and Materials**
 - Ensure all instruments, drapes, and supplies introduced into the sterile field are sterile.
 - Limit handling of sterile items to only those who are scrubbed in.
6. **Maintaining a Sterile Field**
 - Monitor sterile field vigilantly for any breaks in technique or contamination.
 - Replace contaminated items or areas immediately.

5. Documentation

- Record the completion of site preparation, antiseptic agent used, and confirmation of aseptic technique in the patient's operative notes.
- Report and document any breaches in aseptic technique, corrective actions taken, and outcomes.

6. References

- CDC Guideline for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infection
- Institutional Infection Control Policy
- WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care

7. Revision History

| Date | Revision | Description | Author |
|------------|----------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2024-06-15 | 1.0 | Initial SOP Template | Medical Quality Team |