



Hazards: Guidelines

PURPOSE This guidance statement provides definition of terms and references to support perioperative nursing practice. .

SCOPE All perioperative staff.

DEFINITIONS The following terms are used within this document.

| TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Substance | Any element, defined mixture of elements, compounds, or defined mixture of compounds, either naturally occurring or produced synthetically, or any mixtures thereof. Any isotope, allotrope, isomer, congener, radical, or ion of an element or compound which has been notified to be a different substance from that element or compound. Any mixtures or combinations of any of the above. Any manufactured article containing, incorporating, or including any hazardous substance with explosive properties. |
| Hazardous substance | Any substance that has one or more of the following intrinsic 'hazardous properties'- explosiveness; flammability; ability to oxidise (accelerate a fire); human toxicity (acute or chronic); corrosiveness (to human tissue or metal); eco-toxicity; capacity, on contact with air or water, to develop one or more of the above properties. |



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ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

The table below indicates New Zealand legislation and other documents associated with this guideline.

| TYPE | TITLE |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Legislation | The Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Amendment, Act, 2015 Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 The Health and Disability Services (Safety) Act: 2001 Radiation Protection Act 1965 Radiation Protection Regulations 1982 (Amended 1997) Radiation Safety Act 2016 Radiation safety regulations 2016 |
| Recommended best practice | Health and Disability Services Standards NZS 8134:2008 Safe Staffing Healthy Workplaces Unit: Code of Ethics, NZNO: 2013 New Zealand Consensus Statement on the Health Benefits of Work: 2014 Codes of safe practice for radiation used 2016 |
| Guidelines | International Federation of Perioperative Nurses Guidelines ICN Occupational Health and Safety Fact Sheets Code of Conduct, NCNZ: 2012 Worksafe NZ ACC NZ |

| Environmental Classification | Hazard Exposure / Examples in Practice | Reference |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Biological | From biological components of surgical smoke resulting from use of electro-surgical devices and lasers From blood-borne pathogens from percutaneous injuries, splashes and other body fluid contact | AORN - Guidance Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Responsibility • Creating a Patient Safety Culture AORN - Recommended Practices for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Environment of Care • High Level Disinfection |



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| | <p>From infectious micro-organisms From chemical and protein allergens in latex Traffic flow</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic patterns in the Perioperative Practice Setting <p>AORN Latex Guideline</p> <p>AORN - Patient transfer and transport</p> |
| Chemical | <p>Anaesthetic gases Disinfecting and sterilizing agents Specimen preservatives Cleaning agents Poly methyl acrylate (Bone cement) Surgical glue</p> | <p>AORN - Guidance Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Responsibility Creating a Patient Safety Culture <p>AORN - Recommended Practices for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe Environment of Care High Level Disinfection <p>ICN Occupational Health and Safety Fact Sheets, 2010 Hazchem NZ – your practical guide to working safely with hazardous substances ACC NZ Refer to product package insert, IFUs and Safety Data Sheet</p> |
| Physical | <p>Fire Electrical Smoke Plume Radiation Compressed Gases Medical Error</p> | <p>PNC Guidance Statement – Surgical Safety Checklist AORN Guidance Statement Fire Prevention in the Operating Room AORN Policy and Procedure Fire safety in the Operating Room AORN Recommended Practices for Reducing Radiological Exposure in the Perioperative Practice Setting AORN Recommended Practices for the Prevention of Retained Surgical Items (Sponge, Sharp and Instrument Counts) AORN Recommended Practices for Electro surgery AORN Guidance Statement: 'Do not use' Abbreviations, Acronyms, Dosage Designations and Symbols – to be used in conjunction with local policy</p> |



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| <p>Ergonomic</p> | <p>Back Injuries Repetitive Motion Moving Patients Carrying heavy instruments and equipment Static or awkward posture Standing for long periods of time in one position Wearing radiation protection attire (lead)</p> | <p>AORN Recommended Practices for Positioning the Patient in the Perioperative Practice Setting</p> |
| <p>Psychosocial</p> | <p>Long hours Call-out Nursing shortage Overtime – often mandatory Burnout Demographic diversity Verbal and/or physical abuse Absence of, or lack of recognition of a code of conduct for all team members Tolerance of abuse from medical staff Absence of respect from peers and other healthcare professionals Absence of workplace safety programme Lack of commitment by management to adhere to workplace safety programme</p> | <p>District Health Boards/NZNO Nursing and Midwifery Multi-Employer Collective Agreement 2018</p> <p>NCNZ Guideline - Responsibilities for Direction and Delegation of Care to Enrolled Nurses 2011</p> <p>NCNZ Guideline – Delegation of Care by a Registered Nurse to a Health Care Assistant - 2011</p> |