



Module 4: Management of IPC programs

Session 5: Traffic flow in healthcare settings



Learning objectives

By the end of this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe traffic flow and activity pattern in health care settings
- Explain the importance of regulating traffic flow and activity patterns in health care settings
- Describe how to design traffic flow and activity patterns in various health care setting



Introduction

- Regulating the flow of visitors, patients, and staff plays a central role in preventing disease transmission in health care facilities
- The number of microorganisms in designated area tends to be related to the number of people present and their activities
- Microbial contamination is high in areas such as waiting rooms and places where soiled surgical instruments and other equipment are initially processed



Traffic Flow and Activity Patterns

- Clinical areas requiring strict adherence to traffic flow restrictions include:
 - Operating Theatre
 - Central Sterilization and supplies Department (CSSD)
 - Intensive Care Unit (ICU) / Acute areas (new born units)
 - Laboratory
 - Radiology
 - Emergency Department



Heath Facility Traffic flow restriction

The surgical/procedure suites and adjacent areas are divided into three designated areas:

- Unrestricted areas
- Semi-restricted areas
- Restricted areas



Unrestricted area

- Central control point (front desk)
 - Monitor the entrance of patients, personnel, and materials
- Waiting area
- Street clothes are permitted in this area





Semi-Restricted Area

- **Includes:**
 - Storage areas for clean and sterile supplies
 - Work areas for processing surgical instruments
 - Corridors leading to the surgical suite
- **Traffic is only allowed for authorized team members and patients**
- **Team members wear:**
 - Hospital laundered scrub attire, no outside clothes
 - Head and facial hair is covered
 - Masks are not required in this area





Restricted Area

- Includes:
 - Operating Room
 - Procedure rooms
 - Clean core area
- Traffic is only allowed for authorized team members and patients
- Team members wear:
 - Hospital laundered scrub attire (no outside clothes)
 - Hair covering (head and facial hair covered)
 - Masks are worn if open sterile supplies and equipment are being used





Summary

- Hospital designs should minimize cross infections or contamination of the clean (critical) areas
- The flow of people, supplies, instruments, linen and equipment should always be designed to avoid cross-contamination



THANK YOU

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