

Term	Definition
Additional Precautions	Precautions (i.e., Contact Precautions, Droplet Precautions and Airborne Precautions) that are necessary in addition to Routine Practices for certain pathogens or clinical presentations. These precautions are based on the method of transmission (e.g., contact, droplet, airborne).
Alcohol-based Hand Rub (ABHR)	A liquid, gel or foam formulation of 70-90% alcohol (e.g., ethanol, isopropanol) which is used to reduce the number of microorganisms on hands in clinical situations when the hands are not visibly soiled. Alcohol-based hand rubs contain emollients to reduce skin irritation and are less time-consuming to use than washing with soap and water.
Barriers	Equipment or objects used to prevent exposure of skin, mucous membranes or clothing of staff to splashes or sprays of potentially infectious materials.
Biomedical Waste	Contaminated, infectious waste from a health care setting that requires treatment prior to disposal in landfill sites or sanitary sewer systems. Biomedical waste includes human anatomical waste; human and animal cultures or specimens (excluding urine and feces); human liquid blood and blood products; items contaminated with blood or blood products that would release liquid or semi-liquid blood if compressed; body fluids visibly contaminated with blood; body fluids removed in the course of surgery, treatment or for diagnosis (excluding urine and feces); sharps; and broken glass which has come into contact with blood or body fluid.
Cleaning	The physical removal of foreign material (e.g., dust, soil) and organic material (e.g., blood, secretions, excretions, microorganisms). Cleaning physically removes rather than kills microorganisms. It is accomplished with water, detergents and mechanical action.
Control of the Environment	Physical or mechanical measures put in place in the acute care facility to reduce the risk of infection to health care providers or patients.
Discharge/Transfer Cleaning	The thorough cleaning of a client/patient/resident room or bed space following discharge, death or transfer of the client/patient/resident, in order to remove contaminating microorganisms that might be acquired by subsequent occupants and/or staff. In some instances, discharge/transfer cleaning might be used when some types of Additional Precautions have been discontinued.
Disinfectant	A product that is used on surfaces or medical equipment/devices which results in disinfection of the surface or equipment/device. Disinfectants are applied only to inanimate objects. Some products combine a cleaner with a disinfectant.

Term	Definition
Disinfection	The inactivation of disease-producing microorganisms. Disinfection does not destroy bacterial spores. Medical equipment/devices must be cleaned thoroughly before effective disinfection can take place. See also, <i>Disinfectant</i> .
Engineering Controls	Physical or mechanical measures put in place to reduce the risk of infection to staff or patients (e.g., heating, ventilation and air conditioning [HVAC] systems, room design, placement of hand washing sinks).
Hand Hygiene	The removal of visible soil and microorganisms from the hands.
Health Care Facility	A set of physical infrastructure elements supporting the delivery of health-related services. A health care facility does not include a client/patient/resident's home or physician/dental/other health offices where health care may be provided.
Health Care Provider	Any person delivering care to a client/patient/resident. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: emergency service workers, physicians, dentists, nurses, respiratory therapists and other health professionals, personal support workers, clinical instructors, students and home health care workers. In some non-acute settings, volunteers might provide care and would be included as health care providers. See also, <i>Staff</i> .
Health Care Setting	Any location where health care is provided, including settings where emergency care is provided, hospitals, complex continuing care, rehabilitation hospitals, long-term care homes, mental health facilities, outpatient clinics, community health centres and clinics, physician offices, dental offices, offices of other health professionals and home health care.
Infectious Agent	A microorganism (i.e., a bacterium, fungus, virus) that is capable of invading body tissues and multiplying.
Manufacturer	Any person, partnership or incorporated association that manufactures and sells medical equipment/devices under its own name or under a trademark, design, trade name or other name or mark owned or controlled by it.
Medical Equipment/ Device	Any instrument, apparatus, appliance, material, or other article, whether used alone or in combination, intended by the manufacturer to be used for human beings for the purpose of diagnosis, prevention, monitoring, treatment or alleviation of disease, injury or handicap; investigation, replacement, or modification of the anatomy or of a physiological process; or control of conception.

Term	Definition
Microorganism	A microscopic form of life that cannot be seen with the naked eye and that might cause infection.
Point of Care	The place where three elements occur together: the client/patient/resident, the health care provider, and care or treatment involving client/patient/resident contact. The concept refers to a hand hygiene product which is easily accessible to staff by being as close as possible, i.e., within arm's reach, to where client/patient/resident contact is taking place. Point-of-care products should be accessible to the health care provider without the provider leaving the zone of care, so they can be used at the required moment.
Risk Assessment	An evaluation of the interaction of the health care provider, the patient and the environment to assess the risk of acquiring or transmitting infection in order to know what controls to implement.
Safety-Engineered Medical Device	A non-needle sharp or a needle device used for withdrawing body fluids, accessing a vein or artery, or administering medications or other fluids, with a built-in safety feature or mechanism that effectively reduces exposure incident risk. Safety-engineered devices are licensed by Health Canada. Safety-engineered needles are a legislated requirement in Ontario.
Sharps	Objects capable of causing punctures or cuts (e.g., needles, lancets, blades, clinical glass).
Staff	Anyone conducting activities in settings where health care is provided, including but not limited to health care providers. See also, <i>Health Care Provider</i> .