

1.0 General Requirements

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Infection Control requirements are critical to the planning of a healthcare facility and need to be incorporated into plans and specifications.

All areas of the facility shall be designed, constructed, furnished and equipped in keeping with the principles of infection control.

Infection control involves the prevention of possible spread of infection by minimizing the transfer of microorganisms from person to person. Consider sufficient space to allow enough room for storage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) i.e. gowns and gloves for protective isolation.

A number of strategies contribute to the control of infection, such as handwashing, careful aseptic technique and the observance of 'standard precautions'.

By far the most important of the infection control strategies is effective handwashing.

Handwashing facilities shall be installed in all patient care areas and in all areas where careful attention to hygiene is essential, such as Kitchens, Laundries, Pharmacies and Laboratories. Staff amenities areas such as Bathrooms, Toilets and Change Rooms shall also be equipped with handwashing facilities. Refer to the section 'Handwashing Facilities' for detailed requirements of staff hand-basins.

Facets of construction and fit-out that contribute to effective infection control are covered in various sections of these Guidelines. They include ventilation, floor coverings, waste management, and provision for ease of cleaning, provision for sterilization and disinfection of equipment and instruments and provision for the isolation of infectious patients, as required.