

## 2.0 Handwashing Facilities

### 2.1 General

The Guidelines refer to several categories of hand basins including Type A, B, C and troughs along with various configurations for types and placement of tap ware. These are addressed in the section and tables that follow.

### 2.2 Hand Basin Types

Type A hand basin refers to a clinical scrub basin. The hand basin type is a large clinical scrub type. The taps are wall-mounted, hands-free operation (elbow, foot or electronic). This basin is used in areas requiring clinical handwashing for sterile procedures, e.g. ICU Rooms, Treatment Rooms and Cardiac Catheterization areas.

Type B hand basin refers to a general staff hand basin. The hand basin type is a medium wall-mounted basin. Taps are either wall-mounted or basin-mounted with hands-free operation (elbow or wrist). This basin is used in areas requiring general staff handwashing, e.g. ward corridors.

Type C hand basin refers to a small staff hand basin. The hand basin type is a small wall-mounted basin. Taps are either wall-mounted or basin-mounted with hands-free operation (elbow or wrist). This basin is used in areas requiring general staff handwashing, e.g. staff amenities and toilets.

Scrub sink refers to a long sink that can accommodate one or more staff scrubbing for a sterile procedure at one time. Refer to the section on Ergonomics for required heights, width of space per person and type of taps.

### 2.3 Handwash Basins – Placement

Handwash bays should be provided in the following ratios:

- Intensive/Critical Care Units – one per enclosed room, one per two open bays
- Emergency Unit – one per four open bays
- Ambulatory Care Areas – one per four open bays
- Other patient treatment areas – generally staff should not be more than 10–12 meters from a handwash bay.

Handwash basins should be placed near the entry or egress door to a room unless otherwise required.

A handwash basin should be located in close proximity to staff stations.

## 2.4 Handwash Basin Types – Schedule

### Schedule of basin and tap types

The following indicates recommended basin and tap combinations for particular rooms. For rooms not listed, refer to a similar area.

ROOM/SPACE	Basin Type	Wall Tap	Basin Tap	Wrist Action	Elbow Action	Infra-red	Remarks
BAY – HANDWASHING	B	Yes	Optional		Yes		In Corridors
BATHROOM	B		Yes	Yes			
BIRTHING ROOM	A	Yes			Yes	Optional	
CLEAN UTILITY	B	Yes	Optional		Yes		
CLEAN-UP ROOMS	B		Yes	Yes			
CONSULT ROOM	B	Yes	Optional	Yes	Yes		Also includes Exam Rooms
DIRTY UTILITY	B		Yes	Yes			
ENSUITES	B		Yes				
HIGH DEPENDENCY UNIT	A	Yes			Yes	Optional	
INPATIENT BEDS	B	Yes			Yes		
INTENSIVE CARE UNIT	A	Yes			Yes	Optional	
ISOLATION ROOM – AIRLOCK/ANTEROOM	B	Yes			Yes		
ISOLATION ROOM/S	B	Yes			Yes	Optional	
PANTRY	B		Yes				Includes Kitchenettes, Beverage Pantry
POST-MORTEM	A	Yes	Optional		Yes	Optional	
RECOVERY	A	Yes			Yes		
SCRUB-UP/GOWNING	A or Trough	Yes				Yes	Operating Unit, Day Procedure Unit, Procedure Rooms including Imaging
TOILET – PATIENT	B		Yes				
TOILET – PUBLIC	C		Yes				
TOILET – STAFF	C		Yes				
TREATMENT ROOM	A	Yes			Yes		

## 2.5 Work and Treatment Areas

Sinks should not be provided in Clean Utility areas to avoid the risk of contaminating sterile stock stored in this area. The clinical hand basin should be located externally to the room. Hand Basin Type B is recommended for this area.