The Joint Commission

Prepublication Requirements

• Issued December 20, 2024 •

Joint Commission Requirement

Revised Infection Control (IC) Chapter

The Joint Commission has approved the following revisions for prepublication. While revised requirements are published in the semiannual updates to the print manuals (as well as in the online *E-dition*®), accredited organizations and paid subscribers can also view them in the monthly periodical The *Joint Commission Perspectives*®. To begin your subscription, call 800-746-6578 or visit http://www.jcrinc.com.

Please note: Where applicable, this report shows current standards and EPs first, with deleted language struck-through. Then, the revised requirement follows in bold text, with new language underlined.

APPLICABLE TO THE OFFICE BASED SURGERY ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

Effective July 1, 2025

Infection Prevention and Control (IC) Chapter

IC.04.01.01

The practice maintains an infection prevention and control program for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Element(s) of Performance for IC.04.01.01

New EP 1 **The practice's infection prevention and control program is under the direction of a designated and qualified professional who has training in infection control.**
Note: If the practice is part of a system that has a unified infection prevention and control program, the designated infection control professional at the system level may be responsible for the practice's program. The unified infection prevention and control program takes into account the unique circumstances and any significant differences in patient populations and services offered at each practice.

New EP 3 **The practice's infection prevention and control program has written policies and procedures to guide its activities and methods for preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and communicable diseases. The policies and procedures are in accordance with applicable law and regulation, nationally recognized evidence-based guidelines, and standards of practice, including the use of standard precautions.**
Note: Standard precautions include hand hygiene, environmental cleaning and disinfection, injection and medication safety, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), minimizing potential exposures, and reprocessing of reusable medical equipment or devices. For full details on standard precautions, refer to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Core Infection Prevention and Control Practices for Safe Healthcare Delivery in All Settings https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/core-practices/index.html.

Ⓓ **Documentation is required**

New EP 4 For practices performing high-level disinfection and sterilization procedures onsite: The practice's policies and procedures for cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of reusable medical and surgical devices and equipment address the following:
- Cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization of reusable medical and surgical devices in accordance with the Spaulding classification system and manufacturers' instructions

Note: The Spaulding classification system classifies medical and surgical devices as critical, semicritical, or noncritical based on risk to the patient from contamination on a device and establishes the levels of germicidal activity (sterilization, high-level disinfection, intermediate disinfection, and low-level disinfection) to be used for the three classes of devices.
- Use of FDA–approved liquid chemical sterilants for the processing of critical devices and high-level disinfectants for the processing of semicritical devices in accordance with the FDA–cleared label and device manufacturers' instructions
- Required documentation for device reprocessing cycles, including but not limited to sterilizer cycle logs, the frequency of chemical and biological testing, and the results of testing for appropriate concentration for chemicals used in high-level disinfection
- Resolution of conflicts or discrepancies between a medical device manufacturer's instructions and manufacturers' instructions for automated high-level disinfection or sterilization equipment
- Criteria and the process for the use of immediate-use steam sterilization
- Actions to take in the event of a reprocessing error or failure identified either prior to the release of the reprocessed item(s) or after the reprocessed item(s) was used or stored for later use

Note: Depending on the nature of the incident, examples of actions may include quarantine of the sterilizer, recall of item(s), stakeholder notification, patient notification, surveillance, and follow-up.

Ⓓ **Documentation is required**

New EP 10 For practices that use offsite high-level disinfection and sterilization services: The practice defines procedures in accordance with manufacturers' instructions for initial equipment reprocessing (for example, pre-cleaning at the point of use and transporting of items) that occurs before equipment is transferred to the offsite facility for high-level disinfection and sterilization.

Ⓓ **Documentation is required**

IC.06.01.01

The practice implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.

Element(s) of Performance for IC.06.01.01

New EP 1 **To prioritize the infection prevention and control program's activities and determine what resources are necessary for the program, the practice identifies risks for infection, contamination, and exposure that pose a risk to patients and staff based on the following:**
- Population served
- Care, treatment, and services it provides
- Relevant infection control issues identified by the local, state, or federal public health authorities that could impact the practice
Note: Risks may include organisms with a propensity for transmission within health care facilities (for example, norovirus, respiratory syncytial virus [RSV], influenza, COVID-19).

Ⓓ **Documentation is required**

New EP 2 **The practice reviews identified risks at least annually or whenever significant changes in risk occur (for example, in response to local infectious diseases outbreaks).**

Ⓓ **Documentation is required**

New EP 3 **The practice implements activities for the prevention and control of infections and communicable diseases.**
(See also NPSG.07.01.01, EP 1)

New EP 6 **The practice develops and implements action plans when infection control issues arise, including nonadherence with infection control policies and procedures.**
Note: The practice evaluates and revises its action plan as needed.

Ⓓ **Documentation is required**

New EP 8 **Staff handle, store, process, and transport linens in accordance with local or state regulations.**
