



7. Glossary

Term	Meaning
ACH or ACHR	Air changes per hour
Air Changes	The volume of air flowing through a space in a certain period of time (i.e.: airflow rate) measured against the volume of air within the space (i.e. room volume). This ratio is usually expressed as the number of air changes per hour (ACH)
Anteroom	A small lobby leading from a corridor into an isolation area or room. The ante room acts as a holding area to prevent contaminants escaping from the isolation area or room into the adjacent corridor.
Clinical HW Basins	Handwash basins used by staff members in the context of clinical care provision and are designed to be used “hands-free” with sufficient clearance to allow for cleansing forearms as well as hands
Droplet nuclei	micro particles of up to 5 um diameter that are formed from the dried residue of droplets that become airborne by coughing, sneezing or from air currents and turbulence; these particles can stay airborne for lengthy periods
Ensuite	Room attached to a single occupancy patient room, with its own door and facilities for washing, such as a non-clinical handwash basin, shower and toilet
Flash Sterilisation	Immediate-use steam sterilisation
HEPA Filter	A High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter capable of removing 99.97% of particles 0.3 um in diameter. This size of particle is the most difficult to filter, as larger or smaller particles are filtered at even greater efficiency
Infection	This is a condition where organisms capable of causing disease enter the human body and elicit a response from host’s immune defences
IPC	Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) strategy or methodology.
IPU	Inpatient Unit of a facility that provides beds for an overnight stay
Negative Pressure	The relative pressure difference between two areas in a health care facility. A “negative pressure” room is a single-occupancy patient care room which has a lower air pressure than adjacent areas, which keeps air from flowing out of the room to adjacent areas.
Non-clinical HW Basins	Handwash basins used for general standard of hygiene, such as after toilet use, where hands are soiled, and includes vanity basins in ensuite bathrooms
PPE	Personal protective equipment or PPE refers to protective clothing, helmets or hairnets, goggles, or other or equipment designed to protect a person’s body from injury. The hazards addressed by protective equipment can include physical, electrical, heat, chemicals, biohazards, and airborne particulate matter
Positive Pressure	The relative pressure difference between two areas in a health care facility. A “positive pressure” room is a single occupancy room which has a higher pressure than adjacent areas, which keeps air from adjacent areas flowing into the room.
Um	Micrometre or micron, a measurement of wavelength, length and sizes of cells and bacteria