

Building for the Future

Construction and Renovation of Sterile Processing Facilities

Cynthia Hubbard

AAMI
Advancing Safety in Medical Technology

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Cynthia A. Hubbard, RN

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Dedication:

I would like to especially thank my husband, Michael E. Hubbard, for his patience with my immersion in the creation of this book and for his ongoing support of my efforts to advance the sterile processing specialty and improve patient care outcomes.

Acknowledgments:

During the writing of these guidelines, I was very fortunate to have the assistance of several creative and forward-thinking minds. Judy Veale, as copy editor and researcher, is exceptional and brought a long and productive writing career with AAMI and other organizations to bear in creating a cohesive first-of-its kind document. Mark Duro, a dedicated sterile processing manager with first-hand renovation and construction planning experience, provided the most practical of suggestions and additions. Darren Henkel's experience as a materials manager, equipment consultant, space planner, and project manager on many SPD construction projects ensured that the discussions related to the design process were current and relevant to today's issues. The clinical expertise of consultants Rose Seavey and Cynthia Spry, as well as their willingness to share their practical knowledge, ensured that the most current infection prevention concepts were consistently applied to sterile processing issues and to meeting the needs of perioperative patient-care practitioners. Martha Young's enthusiastic support for this project and her attention to detail in ensuring that sterilization practice and equipment planning were presented in a comprehensive manner are greatly appreciated. Veteran perioperative manager Karen Stewart's assistance in reviewing these guidelines reflects a collaborative working relationship forged while we navigated the often murky planning waters encountered when developing a successful SPD/OR interface in a new construction project. Thanks to Cindy Molko, Damien Berg, Sue Klacik, and those persons and organizations that provided materials that are included in the Annexes as practical examples of planning documents. And, thanks are also due to the reviewers and guiding forces at AAMI: Steve Campbell, Erika Hatva, and their team. I thank you all for your support and professionalism.

Foreword

In 2010, AAMI members expressed interest in a comprehensive construction planning guideline for sterile processing departments (SPDs), because resources and references on this topic had not previously been organized and developed. During the writing of *Building for the Future: Construction and Renovation of Sterile Processing Facilities*, extensive research was undertaken to document principles and requirements related to the many issues. Relevant articles detailing experience with the design process and its application to construction and renovation work in sterile processing were found to be lacking in the literature searches. Consequently, recommendations on the practical application of many aspects of the planning process and ideas to enhance effective design in sterile processing have been based on the sterile processing-related work experience of the author.

Creating these guidelines has been a privilege and a pleasure and has allowed me to apply my experience both as a sterile processing manager and a consultant for SPD construction planning into a document that explores the many issues and provides planners with tools that can be used to achieve successful outcomes. During the writing process, I was reminded of the many learning opportunities I have had over the years and how these varied experiences prepared me now to analyze retrospectively what worked well and where we struggled. I am grateful for my many mentors, teachers, and colleagues who provided guidance along the way and for their special skills in contributing to the project outcomes.

From this perspective, I can emphatically state that collaborative planning, accurate data, having an eye toward the future, and ongoing, respectful communication are the keys to successful project management. Participation in planning and implementing new construction and/or SPD renovation is not commonly found in the resumes of sterile processing managers and architects. Consequently, new SPD planners and designers, although initially excited by the possibilities of a new construction project, frequently become overwhelmed by the many details and stresses of the process. In this situation, designers might lose perspective of the key operational and space needs in SPD as they interface with a lengthy process that requires flexibility, negotiation skills, and compromise.