



Aseptic

TECHNIQUE

CLEAN VS. STERILE - QUICK REFERENCE



This quick reference reinforces the key differences between medical asepsis (clean technique) and surgical asepsis (sterile technique) to support safe practice.

Medical Asepsis (Clean Technique)	Surgical Asepsis (Sterile Technique)
Reduces the number of microorganisms	Eliminates all microorganisms
Used in routine patient care	Used during invasive procedures
Clean gloves are acceptable	Sterile gloves are required
Clean field maintained	Sterile field maintained
Focuses on preventing spread	Focuses on maintaining sterility

Escalate or Restart If:

- Sterile gloves are compromised
- Packaging integrity is compromised
- You lose visual control of the sterile field
- Contamination is suspected

Common Errors to Avoid:

- Reaching over a sterile field
- Turning away from a sterile setup
- Allowing sterile and non-sterile contact
- Assuming "almost sterile" is acceptable