BRONCHOSCOPY PROCEDURES.

Location of bronchoscopy procedures a. All elective bronchoscopies should be performed in a negative pressure room. If bronchoscopy is performed under fluoroscopy, then guidelines for radiation safety should be followed.

A negative pressure isolation room has a lower pressure than that of adjacent areas which prohibits air from flowing out of the isolation room and into adjacent areas. To be compliant and meet the Center for Disease Control guidelines, negative pressure rooms in healthcare facilities must have a minimum of 12 air exchanges per hour.

In specific facilities where dedicated negative pressure suites are not available elective bronchoscopies may be performed in an operating room suite. However, a portable HEPA air purifier unit (air scrubber) should be placed in the operating room prior to the procedure, and if an infection is suspected and microbiologic samples have been collected, the air purifier must remain in ‘on’ position for at least 30 minutes after the procedure.

Following completion of bronchoscopy, the patient should be transferred to a negative pressure room in the recovery area for further monitoring until discharge criteria is met. During transportation, the patient will wear a surgical mask until placed in a negative pressure room.

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Filtration

The latest edition of ASHRAE 170 was published in early 2021 and states that operating rooms require a minimum filter efficiency of MERV 16 (previously MERV 14), although HEPA filters are typically used in these spaces. HEPA filters shall be provided and located in the air terminal device."

Primary Diffuser Array

A key design requirement within ASHRAE 170 for operating rooms is the primary supply diffuser array. This is recommended with the sole intent of creating a large sterile zone around the patient and medical staff. The standard dictates that the coverage area of the primary supply diffuser array should include the surgical table and extend a minimum of 12 in. beyond the footprint of the surgical table on each side and that no more than 30% of this area may be used for non diffuser uses. This recommendation ensures that enough clean, filtered air is dispensed above the patient while accommodating the complex medical equipment present in today's modern rooms.

The airflow in the primary diffuser array should be unidirectional and downward, with an average velocity of 25 to 35 cfm per sq. ft. ASHRAE Group E nonaspirating diffusers, or laminar flow diffusers, are used to meet this requirement. Additionally, rooms require Negative pressurization of at least -0.01 in.w.g. as well as a minimum of 12 total air changes per hour, with a minimum of four of those air changes being outdoor air. Finally, a minimum of two (four recommended) low sidewall return or exhaust grilles should be placed symmetrically around the room to promote the desired airflow pattern.