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Owner: Katherine Williams: CLINICAL PRACTICE COORD
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Surgical Attire

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the provision, wearing, and maintenance of surgical scrub attire which helps ensure cleanliness and promote health care worker safety in the perioperative environment / procedural area. This policy augments the "[Hand Hygiene and Surgical Hand Scrub](#)" policy with stricter guidelines for the perioperative environment.

DEFINITIONS

- A. Eye Protection – Includes goggles, glasses with solid side shields, or surgical masks with front shields for the purpose of protecting the health care worker from splashes, spray, spatter, or droplets of blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials.
- B. Non-Restricted/Unrestricted Areas – Includes the central control point established to monitor the entrance of patients, personnel, and material.
- C. Operating Room (OR) – A room in the operating suite where operations are performed.
- D. Operating Suite – A physically separate area that comprises ORs and their interconnecting hallways and ancillary work areas such as scrub sink rooms.
- E. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Specialized clothing or equipment used by health care workers to protect against direct exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material. PPE is provided to protect staff against such exposure to blood and body fluid.
- F. Restricted – Includes the OR/procedure room, and Center Core/Clean Core.
- G. Semi-Restricted – Includes the peripheral support areas of the surgical suite, and has storage areas for sterile and clean supplies, work areas for storage and processing instruments, and corridors leading to the restricted areas of the surgical suite, i.e., ORs when no sterile items are not open, internal corridors, clean core, sterile processing, utility, and OR storage areas
- H. Surgical Attire – Non-sterile scrub apparel owned and laundered by the hospital and designed for the OR practice setting that includes tops, pants, cover jackets, gowns, head coverings, shoes, masks, protective eyewear, and other protective barriers.
- I. Surgical Personnel – Any health care worker who provides care to surgical patients during the pre-, intra-, or post-operative periods.
- J. Surgical Team Member – Any health care worker in an OR during the operation, whether scrubbed or not.

- K. Transition Zone – An area where one can enter in street clothes and exit into the semi-restricted or restricted area in surgical attire.

BACKGROUND

- A. Surgical attire assists in containing bacterial shedding and promotes environmental control in the operative setting.
- B. Wearing properly laundered surgical scrub attire may decrease the risk of infection in patients.
- C. Controlling the use of, and access to, surgical attire may improve the secure environment of the restricted area.
- D. Scrub attire must meet the requirements of the NFPA 56A-78 Standards for the Use of Inhalation Anesthetics.
- E. Hospital policies for hand hygiene, PPE, and dress code are relevant in the operative area.
- F. Wearing earrings, watches, and rings has been found to increase bacterial counts on skin surfaces during use and after removal. (AORN Guidelines 2017)

PROCEDURE

A. Surgical Attire

1. Surgical attire is worn in the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
 - a. Street clothes are acceptable in un-restricted areas.
2. Surgical attire is available for surgical team members and other designated personnel (not on the surgical team) who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
 - a. Personnel or family entering the semi-restricted/restricted area for **brief** visits may wear jumpsuits, with head and shoe covers and masks, e.g., Consulting Surgeons; Radiology, Laboratory, Maintenance, Clinical Engineering, Pathology, Respiratory care, Environmental Services staff; personnel transporting the patient in or out of the OR.
3. Surgical attire is stocked in a limited number of locations where access can be controlled.
 - a. Surgical attire should leave the hospital only in the case of an emergency.

B. Head Covering (including bouffants, surgical head cover, or hood)

1. Disposable facility-approved head covers are worn by all who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
2. Must cover ALL hair and facial hair, including sideburns and beards.
 - a. Bald or shaved heads must be covered.
3. Cloth Personal Head Covers
 - a. Must be covered by a hospital-provided, disposable cap while in the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
 - b. Are laundered daily.
4. Patients wear head covers in the semi-restricted and restricted areas unless behavioral or developmental limitations exist.

C. Scrub Attire

1. Scrub attire must be hospital-owned and laundered.
 - a. If personal owned scrub attire is required, Infection Prevention will be contacted and will work with the individual so attire meets standards.
2. Scrub attire includes:
 - a. Scrub Top – may be worn outside pants so long as they fit reasonably close to the hips.
 - b. Scrub pants covering all skin.
 - c. Long-sleeved scrub jackets with elastic cuffs down to the wrists.
 1. Required in the OR restricted area for non-scrubbed persons, and while performing the pre-operative skin prep.
 2. Required in sterile processing while preparing and packaging items in the clean assembly section.
 3. Fastened down the front.
3. Scrub pants and shirts are worn in the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
4. Lab coats worn over scrub attire are limited to the unrestricted area and should be clean, laundered in a health care accredited laundry facility.
5. Must cover all personal clothing.
 - a. If personal attire cannot be covered by the scrub top, it must be removed.
6. Scrub attire is changed:
 - a. Daily
 - b. When visibly soiled or wet
 - c. When leaving the health care facility

D. Surgical Footwear / Shoe Covers

1. Personnel should wear shoes with closed toe, low heels, and non-skid soles.
 - a. Shoes with perforations are not recommended due to the potential of exposure to blood/body fluids.
2. Shoe covers will be worn when:
 - a. Street shoes not limited to use within the building are worn.
 - b. Contamination of shoes with blood or potentially infectious materials is anticipated.
3. Shoe covers will be removed and replaced promptly when contaminated, soiled, or non-intact.

E. Masks

1. Single-use, facility-approved surgical masks will be worn:
 - a. By all personnel in restricted areas when open sterile items are present, excluding clean procedures such as (but not limited to) dental cases, tonsillectomy, adenoidectomy, myringotomy with or without tubes.
 - b. When handling or transferring sterile instruments from the immediate use sterilizer to the sterile field.
2. Masks will:

- a. Cover the mouth and nose securely without venting at the sides or bottom.
 - b. Be changed whenever soiled, dampened, or taken down.
 - c. Will not be worn untied or draped around the neck.
 - d. Be discarded after each procedure, or sooner if wet or soiled.
 - e. Be discarded by handling the ties or loops.
3. Removal of the mask should be followed by hand hygiene.

F. Surgical Gown and Gloves

1. Fluid-resistant sterile gowns (level three or four) are worn by personnel at the sterile field.
2. Surgical gowns are donned using aseptic technique and removed prior to leaving the OR.
3. Exam gloves are worn for patient care or non-sterile procedures when risk of exposure to blood-borne pathogens exists.
 - a. Hands are cleaned with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitizer prior to donning exam gloves.
 - b. Exam gloves are removed at completion of tasks, and hands are then cleaned with soap and water or alcohol hand sanitizer.
4. Hand hygiene shall be performed after removing the gown and gloves.

G. Jewelry

1. All persons in the semi-restricted or restricted area:
 - a. Rings must be removed.
 - b. Earrings must be covered by head covering or removed.
 - c. Chains the neck must be covered by scrub top or removed.
 - d. Bracelets and watches must be covered by the jacket or removed.
 - e. Exposed dermal piercings must be covered with a bandaid.

H. Fingernails

1. Fingernails must be short and clean and healthy.
2. Per CHI Health "Hand Hygiene" policy, artificial fingernails (including acrylic, silk wraps, gels, shellac, overlays, extenders, and tips) are not permitted for persons who provide patient care.
 - a. Enamel polish, if worn, will not be cracked, chipped, or peeling

I. PPE (see "Bloodborne Pathogens" policy)

1. Appropriate PPE is worn by all staff when the risk of contact with body fluids, chemical hazards, or other safety risks are present.
2. PPE must be used to cover the health care worker's skin, eyes, and mucous membranes any time there is a risk of touching, splashing, or spraying of blood, body fluids, secretions, and excretions.
 - a. Eye protection is worn by all personnel scrubbed into the case and during case cleanup, and by others in the restricted or semi-restricted areas when the risk of splashing is present.
 - b. Closed-toe shoes without perforation must be worn with or without shoe covers.
 1. Shoes with perforations must be covered with a protective shoe cover.
3. All PPE is removed and cleaned per manufacturer's recommendations, or discarded if contaminated.

J. Identification badges are secured to the surgical top (no lanyards), visible, and clean.

Table I	Sterile Processing	Non-restricted	Semi-restricted	Restricted
Jackets	X – set building			X
Gowns	X- dirty side			X
Eye Protection	X –dirty side			X
Hair covered	X		X	X
Jewelry covered or removed	X		X	X
Mask	X – dirty side			X
Scrub pants and shirts	X		X	X
Street clothes		X		
Lab coat		X		
Shoe covers or shoes dedicated to the hospital	X		x	x

REFERENCES

AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice (2017)

Attachments:

No Attachments

Approval Signatures

Approver

Date

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Applicability

CHI Health Clinic, CHI Health Laboratory, CUMC-Bergan Mercy, CUMC-University Campus, Good Samaritan, Immanuel, Lakeside, Mercy Corning, Mercy Council Bluffs, Midlands, Missouri Valley, Nebraska Heart, Plainview, Schuyler, St. Elizabeth, St. Francis, St. Mary's, The Physician Network