

PROCEDURE FOR: Surgical Attire

- POLICY:**
1. All individuals who enter the semirestricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite should wear freshly laundered surgical attire intended for use within the surgical suite. Laundered surgical attire will be protected from contamination during transport to the surgical suite.
  2. Facility approved, clean and freshly laundered attire should be donned in a designated area of the facility (eg, locker room). If scrub attire is worn into the facility from outside, it should be changed before entering semirestricted and restricted areas, to minimize the potential for contamination.
  3. Scrub attire is intended to be worn by personnel working within the surgical suite, and is not provided for personnel working elsewhere.
  4. When scrub pants and tops are worn, the top should be secured at the waist, tucked into the pants, or fit close to the body. Undershirts may be worn but sleeves should fall no lower than above the elbow and at a level which, if performing surgical hand antisepsis, will not become wet with water or antimicrobial scrub agents. The neck area of the undershirt can be visible, as further confinement of hair and sloughed skin may be preferred. Any other garments should be contained completely within or covered by the surgical attire; long sleeved shirts or any other clothing that cannot be covered by surgical attire should not be worn. If hospital-laundered warm-up jackets are not available, home-laundered jackets made of tightly woven cotton or cotton-blend material may be worn.
  5. Worn surgical attire should be placed in an appropriately designated container for washing or disposal and should not be kept for wearing at another time.
  6. Visibly soiled, contaminated or wet surgical attire should be removed as soon as possible and replaced with fresh, clean surgical attire. Attire contaminated with visible blood or body fluids should remain at the hospital for laundering.
  7. Cover gowns will not be worn outside the surgical suite; laboratory coats must be removed before entering semirestricted or restricted areas. No disposable attire such as hats, masks, and shoe covers may be worn outside of the immediate perioperative area.
  8. Warm-up jackets or other long-sleeved coverings that are tied, buttoned or snapped must be secured to avoid contamination of the sterile field. Items of this type must be made of tightly woven cloth or disposable material and must be lint-free.
  9. All personnel in semi-restricted and restricted areas will wear surgical masks whenever open, sterile items are present. Masks must cover the nose and mouth. Masks must be changed when soiled, when leaving the surgical suite, and between cases. Masks may be removed at the end of procedures only when the sterile field has been broken down / contaminated.
  10. Protective eyewear must be worn whenever the possibility exists for exposure to splashing or spraying of body fluids or other contaminants. Protective eyewear includes goggles, masks, or face

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shields, and must include side shielding.

11. Personnel should cover head and facial hair when in the semirestricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite. Hair coverings should be removed before leaving the surgical suite. Cloth hats should be changed daily or whenever soiled and covered with a disposable bouffant hat when entering the restricted or semirestricted area.
12. The wearing of jewelry by all OR team members should be kept to a minimum and contained or confined in order to prevent contamination of the wound or sterile field as well as to minimize cross-contamination.
  - a. Scrubbed personnel should wear no rings, watches, or bracelets, and any necklaces or piercings should be removed or totally confined;
  - b. Non-scrubbed nursing personnel in restricted areas who are delivering direct patient care of any sort and / or are responsible for creating / maintaining the sterile field should wear no rings, watches, or bracelets, and any necklaces or piercings should be removed or totally confined;
  - c. Anesthesia personnel in restricted areas who are delivering direct patient care of any sort may wear watches. If they wear rings, they must observe established infection control policies for hand hygiene / hand washing and for standard precautions. Rings, watches, and bracelets should be removed and proper hand hygiene should be performed by anesthesia personnel prior to procedures requiring surgical hand antisepsis;
  - d. All other personnel in restricted areas should wear only a minimum of jewelry and it should be contained or confined as outlined at the beginning of the policy statement.
13. Fingernails should be kept short, clean, natural and healthy. Pursuant to Infection Control policy 1.4: Hand Washing, procedure step 6, OR staff are not to wear artificial nails on duty. The definition of artificial fingernails includes, but is not limited to, acrylic nails, all overlays, tips, bondings, extensions, tapes, inlays, and wraps. Nail polish, if worn, should not be chipped. Nail jewelry should not be worn.
14. Shoes designated for wear in the OR are preferable, and should provide protection from sharp items. Shoe covers should be considered a protection for the shoes rather than the patient, and should be worn when it can be reasonably anticipated that splashes or spills may occur. If shoe covers are worn, they should be changed whenever they become torn, wet or soiled, and should be removed and discarded before leaving the surgical suite or spread of contaminants is a risk, whichever is sooner.
15. Protective barriers will be worn to reduce the risk of exposure to potentially infective materials, in accordance with this protocol and UCHC Infection Control policies. Barriers include gloves (sterile and non-sterile); protective eyewear, masks or face shields; and additional protective attire such as liquid-resistant aprons, gowns and shoe covers.

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16. Surgical attire is UCHC property. It should not be defaced, destroyed or removed from the premises.
17. Home laundering of scrub jackets and cloth hats is allowed if the following criteria are met (*cloth hats must be worn under bouffant hats in semi-restricted and restricted areas*):
  - automatic washer and hot air dryer;
  - use of hot setting for wash water;
  - use of chlorine bleach in addition to detergent;
  - laundering surgical attire in a separate load with no other items and as the last load after all other items have been washed;
  - washing hands immediately after placing laundry in the washing machine;
  - thoroughly cleaning the door and lid of the washing machine before removing the laundered attire to prevent reintroduction of contaminants on clean attire when removing it from washing machine and before placing it in the dryer.
  - using the highest dryer setting possible that is safe for the material of attire construction.

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 12/85

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