

**PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES**

**TITLE: DRESS CODE**

**PURPOSE:**

- A. To provide guidelines for attire worn within the semi-restricted and restricted area of the surgical environment.
- B. To provide an explanation of Non-restricted, Semi-Restricted and Restricted Environments.

**POLICY:**

It is the policy of Perioperative Services to establish a formal dress code to enable our employees to project a professional image. Perioperative Services dress code designates attire for the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases among patients and employees.

**PROCEDURE GUIDELINES:**

**General Guidelines:** See hospital-wide policy (Administrative Manual V-19) and Nursing Service policy (Nursing Manual II-9).

**Perioperative Services Guidelines:**

A. Clothing:

1. Hospital scrubs are to be worn only by OR, Anesthesia, PACU, OPS, Endoscopy, OR Sterile and Surgery Center Employees in the semi-restricted and restricted environments.
2. Fabrics for scrub attire should be tightly woven, low-linting, stain resistant, and durable.
3. All hospital scrubs are to be laundered in a facility approved hospital laundry area.
4. If home laundering is done due to a documented allergy, CHH scrubs must be carried in and out of the hospital in a plastic bag. **SCRUBS ARE NOT TO BE WORN TO AND FROM THE HOSPITAL OR OUT INTO THE COMMUNITY** to prevent exposure of potentially dangerous pathogens to patients, patients' family, practitioners' family, and the community. All personnel wearing surgical scrubs must change into street clothes upon exiting the building for any reason.
5. Personnel should don clean scrub attire daily in a designated dressing area before entry from the outdoors into the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
6. Personnel working in the semi-restricted and restricted areas must change into street clothes whenever they go outside of the hospital facility.

7. Scrub attire that has been penetrated by blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials must be removed immediately or as soon as possible and replaced with clean attire.
  8. The scrub top should be tucked into the pants and/or form fitting to the body.
  9. All team members in the restricted area should wear a jacket to cover the arms. Disposable and hospital laundered jackets are acceptable.
  10. The OR sterile processing team member should wear a jacket while preparing and packaging items in the clean assembly section of sterile processing area. Disposable and hospital laundered jackets are acceptable.
  11. Persons entering the semi-restricted and restricted areas for short periods can don a bunny suit that completely covers personal apparel.
  12. T-shirts may be worn under scrub tops but must be covered entirely by uniform. No sweatshirts or turtlenecks under hospital provided scrubs. No long-sleeve shirts under hospital provided scrub tops permitted in the operating room or procedural rooms.
  13. No t-shirts, sweat shirts, or fleece jackets may be worn as a uniform top, must wear only hospital provided scrub tops in semi-restricted and restricted areas.
  14. Scrubs from other hospital facilities shall not be worn in the operating room.
- B. Shoes are to be clean and in good repair:
1. ALL shoes worn in the Operating Room and OR Sterile must be covered with shoe covers.
  2. Single-use shoe covers worn as PPE must be removed immediately after use and discarded, and hand hygiene performed.
  3. Extra shoe covers or boots must be worn in instances when gross contamination can reasonably be anticipated (e.g.: Orthopedic Surgery, Labor and Delivery).
  4. Shoe Covers are to be removed when exiting the OR and OR Sterile environment.
- C. Accessories and Jewelry:
- Jewelry that cannot be contained or confined within the scrub attire should not be worn in the semi-restricted and restricted environments (e.g.: earrings, rings, watches, necklaces, bracelets, etc.).
- D. Surgical Hats:
1. All persons entering the restricted area must wear a surgical hat that confines the hair and completely covers ears, scalp skin, sideburns and nape of the neck.
  2. Reusable hats or hoods should be clean low-lint surgical hats that confine all hair. Reusable hats should be laundered after each use.
  3. Skull caps that fail to cover the side hair above the ears and hair at the nape of the neck are not acceptable.
  4. All reusable hats must be completely covered with a disposable hat or hood when entering the restricted area. The disposable hats must be discarded at the end of the shift or when going outside of the hospital.
- E. Surgical Masks and Eye Protection Devices:
1. Surgical masks in combination with eye protection must be worn in the sterile field at all times. Eye protection must be worn by all personnel in the operating room suite.

2. Surgical masks are required when entering an operating room suite with sterile supplies open for a procedure.
3. Surgical masks should cover the mouth and nose and be secured in a manner that prevents venting at the sides of the mask.
4. A fresh surgical mask should be donned before each new procedure. Surgical masks should not be worn hanging around the neck.
5. Beards and mustaches are to be neatly trimmed and completely covered by a surgical mask or hood.

**F. Fingernails and polish**

Artificial nails and gel nail polish are prohibited.

Fingernail polish that is chipped or more than 4 days old must be removed.

No nail polish can be worn in the sterile field and is prohibited in all areas of OR Sterile.

**G. General guidelines for surgical attire:**

1. When leaving the perioperative environment all masks and shoe covers should be removed.
2. A lab coat or disposable jacket should be worn when going outside the perioperative environment but staying within the facility.
3. Gowns and gloves for non-scrubbed personnel are to be worn as needed for personal protection. Eye protection must be worn by all personnel in the operating room suite.
4. Identification badges should be worn secured on the scrub attire top or long-sleeved jacket and should be visible. Lanyards should not be worn.
5. Badges should be cleaned regularly and when the badge becomes soiled.
6. Briefcases, backpacks, and other personal items that are taken into the semi-restricted or restricted areas should be cleaned with a low level disinfectant and should not be placed on the floor.
7. Cell phones, tablets, and other personal communication devices should be cleaned with a low level disinfectant before and after being brought into the perioperative setting.

**H. Company Representatives, Residents, Medical Students, Nursing Students, Surgical Tech Students, Visiting Physicians, etc.**

Everyone in the semi-restricted and restricted environments shall follow the Perioperative Services dress code policy.

**Non-Restricted, Semi-Restricted, and Restricted Environments:**

- A. Non-Restricted: Street clothes are permitted, but must adhere to Nursing Service “Dress Code” Policy. A corridor on the periphery accommodates traffic from outside, including patients.
- B. Semi-Restricted: Traffic is limited to properly attired, authorized personnel. Scrub suits and coverings for head, hair, ears, and facial hair are required attire. For example, this area includes peripheral support areas, access corridors to the Operating Rooms, Prep and Pack, Storage areas, materials management, etc. in OR sterile.
- C. Restricted: Masks are required to supplement OR attire where open sterile supplies or scrubbed personnel are located. This area also includes scrub sink

areas and sub-sterile rooms and clean core areas where unwrapped supplies are sterilized. In OR sterile, this area includes the Decontamination area where PPE is required to include head cover, shoe covers, impervious gown, general purpose utility gloves, a fluid resistant mask and face shield.

References:

“Guidelines for Perioperative Practice,” Surgical Attire, pg. 95-117, AORN, 2016.

Phillips, Nancymarie. “Berry and Kohn’s Operating Room Technique,” The Perioperative Environment, pg. 177-191, 2012.

ANSI/AAMI ST79:2010 & A1 & A2 Section 4.5.2 Decontamination Area.

“3 Surgical Attire Battles You Should Fight,” AORN Periop Insider Newsletter, 2017.

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