



TO: Perioperative and Procedural Area Staff, other CHH Employees, Students and Vendors authorized to enter Procedural Areas

FROM: Kevin Fowler, President and Chief Executive Officer

RE: CHH Requirements for Proper Attire in Procedural Areas

Operating Rooms, Cath Lab, Interventional Radiology Suites, Pain Management Procedure Rooms, LDR C-Section Rooms and GYN ORs, Endoscopy Suites, OR Sterile

DATE: 12/19/16

Wearing proper attire in Procedural Areas may be as important as environmental cleanliness, hand hygiene and sterile technique for reducing surgical infections and for personal protection against blood and body fluids. Proper attire is also visual evidence of our drive for clinical excellence as well as our commitment to patient safety.

We all know the importance of reducing/eliminating any potential risks to patients especially those that are easily resolved by following evidence-based protocols established by the industry. Our policies are based on national standards and we have an obligation to the patients we serve to follow them. Please understand that we must and will hold staff accountable for appropriate compliance with our policies.

General Guidelines for Proper Attire in Procedural Areas:

- All personal jackets must be covered by a disposable cover-up while in procedural areas.
- Single-use shoe covers must be worn to enter procedural areas. Shoe covers must be removed and discarded immediately upon leaving the procedural area.
- Identification badges should be worn on the scrub attire top or long-sleeved jacket and should be clean and visible.
- Personal items taken into procedural areas should be cleaned with a low level disinfectant and not placed on the floor.

Guidelines for Surgical Masks in Procedural Areas:

- Surgical Masks are required when entering procedural areas that have sterile supplies opened. Surgical Masks are to be removed and discarded when leaving the area. A fresh mask must be donned when returning to the procedural area. Used Surgical Masks are not to be worn hanging around the neck.
- A new Surgical Mask is to be donned prior to each new procedure. The mask is to be replaced whenever it becomes wet or soiled or has been taken down.
- Surgical Masks should cover the mouth and nose and be secured in a manner that prevents venting at the sides of the mask.
- If Surgical Masks do not completely cover beards and mustaches, a hood should also be worn.
- In a sterile field or during a procedure with a potential for splash, eye protection must also be worn, along with the Surgical Mask.

Surgical Hats and Head Covering in Applicable Areas:

- Surgical Hats must be worn in procedural areas and should confine the hair and completely cover scalp skin, sideburns and the nape of the neck.
- Disposable Surgical Hats must be discarded at the end of a shift or when going outside the hospital building.
- Reusable cloth hats must be completely covered by disposable bouffants prior to entering a procedural area.
- Head Covering: Unless a head covering becomes soiled, personnel wearing scrub attire should not remove the head covering until the end of shift when changing into street clothes.