

Office of Origin: Perioperative Services

I. PURPOSE

To identify the appropriate attire to be worn in semi-restricted and restricted areas of the Operating Room, Sterile Processing, and Procedural areas with the goal of reducing the risks for transmission of infections to patients and to healthcare personnel.

II. REFERENCES

- Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2019, American Association of Operating Room Nurses (AORN), Guidelines for Surgical Attire July 2019
- American College of Surgeons 2016 (ACS)
- California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 5193. Blood borne Pathogens.
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

III. DEFINITIONS

- OR Areas– includes operating rooms, sterile processing and/or all procedural areas that require surgical attire
- Clean - free from soil, dirt or staining
- Jumpsuits - single-use paper coveralls to be worn over clothes. Also known as “Bunny suits”

IV. RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

- A.** All individuals who enter semi-restricted and restricted areas are responsible for adhering to requirements regarding appropriate surgical attire. This includes:
1. Physicians/residents/fellows providing care to patients
 2. OR staff
 3. Hospitality Staff
 4. Pharmacy Staff who work within the OR Areas
 5. Individuals providing intraoperative consultations
 6. Visitors/observers

V. POLICY**A. SURGICAL ATTIRE**

1. All individuals who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite must wear hospital-issued freshly laundered surgical attire (i.e., scrubs).
2. If scrubs are worn into the institution from outside, they must be changed before entering semi-restricted or restricted areas.
3. Change surgical attire at least daily or whenever becoming visibly soiled, contaminated, or wet.
4. Place removed surgical attire in an appropriate container for laundering and do not hang or place worn attire in a locker for wearing at another time.
 - Surgical attire must only be laundered by a healthcare laundering vendor and must not be laundered at home.
5. Individuals who are scrubbed must completely contain or cover personal clothing within the surgical attire. Do not wear clothing that cannot be covered by surgical attire.
 - Individuals who are not scrubbed can wear personal long-sleeved clothing under scrub attire. Personal clothing must be clean and non-lint-producing.
6. Persons entering the semi-restricted or restricted areas for a brief time (i.e., 15 minutes or less) can don either clean scrub attire or a single-use jumpsuit/bunny suit designed to be worn over street clothes.

B. COVER APPAREL/WARM-UP JACKETS

1. Cover apparel, including warm-up jackets, can be worn but are not required. Do not wear jackets with billowy sleeves that have the potential to contaminate the sterile field when performing skin antisepsis
2. Warm-up jackets and other cover apparel must be clean and discarded if they become soiled, contaminated, or wet.

C. HEAD COVERINGS

1. Cover the scalp and hair when entering the semi-restricted and restricted areas: Both **reusable and disposable hats, hijabs, caps and bouffants are allowed.** Reusable hats must:
 - Be visibly clean and intact (i.e., not torn, frayed, or otherwise damaged).
 - Be laundered frequently. Cloth hats may be laundered at home unless soiled with blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious material, in which case hospital laundering is required.
2. Remove head coverings at the end of the shift or as soon as feasible if they become contaminated or torn
3. Cover facial hair when in the restricted areas or when preparing and packaging items in the clean assembly processing areas
 - Covering facial hair is not required in the semi-restricted areas (e.g., corridors and OR support areas)

4. Earrings must be contained within the head cover. Remove all earrings or other jewelry worn on the head or neck that could fall into or contaminate the sterile field.

D. SURGICAL MASKS

1. Surgical masks must be single-use and disposable
2. Wear a surgical mask at all times during sterile procedures and when there are open sterile items
 - Masks are not required in the operating room during non-sterile procedures unless there are open sterile items
3. Ensure that the mask covers both the mouth and the nose and is secured in place in a manner that prevents venting
4. Remove and replace the surgical mask if it becomes wet, soiled or torn
5. Remove the mask when leaving the OR suite. Masks should not be worn dangling loose at any time.
6. Additional respiratory protection (e.g., N95 respirators, powered air-purifying respirators [PAPRs]) may be required when caring for patients with specific types of infections and/or while performing specific types of procedures. See Aerosol Transmissible Disease Exposure Control Plan Policy 3.1.2 and [HEIC Standard and transmission Based Precautions Policy 1.1](#) for more details.

E. JEWELRY

1. Do not wear jewelry (earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings) that cannot be contained or confined within the scrub attire in the semi-restricted or restricted areas.
2. Scrubbed personnel may not wear jewelry of any type on the hands or wrists.

F. FOOTWEAR

1. Wear visibly clean shoes when entering the semi-restricted or restricted areas.
2. Fluid-resistant shoe covers or boots must be worn in instances when gross contamination can reasonably be anticipated.
 - Shoe covers worn as PPE must be removed immediately after use. After removal, discard the shoe covers and perform hand hygiene
3. Footwear must:
 - Provide safe, secure footing
 - Be made of a material that protects against hazards
 - Cover the toes without openings
 - Be kept clean

G. SURGICAL GLOVES

1. Wear sterile gloves when performing sterile procedures.
2. Double gloving is recommended and is attained by wearing two pairs of sterile surgical gloves or a pair of sterile surgical gloves over a pair of indicator gloves.
3. Surgical team members will change, as soon as possible, to a new pair of sterile gloves when:
 - a. There is any suspicion of perforation or contamination.
 - b. When an indicator glove indicates a perforation.
4. Change gloves between patient contacts or after contact with contaminated items when a task is complete.
5. Perform hand hygiene after gloves are removed

H. EYE PROTECTION

1. All personnel at the sterile field must wear goggles, face shields, glasses with side shields or other protective eyewear at all times. Protective eyewear, masks, or face shields must be worn by other team members whenever splashing or spraying is likely.

VI. ACCESSORIES

- A. Personal bags (e.g. briefcases, backpacks) are not allowed in the OR unless they are designated for the OR Areas
- B. Personal gear (i.e. fanny packs, over the shoulder bags) used by direct patient care providers are permitted in the OR Areas and must be clean
- C. Clean ID badges/lanyards with a low level disinfectant when the badge/lanyard becomes soiled with blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious materials
- D. Clean cell phones, tablets and other personal communication or hand-held electronic equipment according to manufacturer's instructions for use before these items are brought into the OR and then perform hand hygiene
- E. Clean stethoscopes before each patient use and according to manufacturer's instructions for use and then perform hand hygiene



Surgical Attire Policy for Operating Rooms and Procedural Areas

POLICY 1.01.01 Surgical Attire Policy for
Operating Rooms and Procedural Areas
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Last Approval: 10/20

VII. VENDORS

- A. Refer to Vendor Visitation Policy 3.05.07

VIII. HISTORY OF POLICY

Originated: 8/06

Reviewed: 5/07, 2/09, 7/11, 10/12, 10/16 (sections A.1 and 2 added)

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Approved: Infection Control 12/13/19, OR Committee 12/13/19; Revised: Hijab added 10.26.20

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