

CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER
O.R./ANESTHESIA/SURGERY CENTER SERVICES
OPERATING ROOM

GUIDELINES: SURGICAL ATTIRE

EFFECTIVE: May, 2008

Prev. Issued: N/A

I. PURPOSE

To provide standardized guidelines for nursing and non-nursing personnel in accordance with roles and responsibilities as outlined in the job descriptions along with the AORN standards of practice. To provide guidelines for surgical attire worn within the semirestricted and restricted areas of the surgical environment that will promote a high level of cleanliness and hygiene within the surgical environment.

II. GENERAL INFORMATION

Definitions

Surgical Scrub Attire - Proper operating room attire includes a scrub suit and cap. Shoe covers and masks are considered a part of operating room (OR) attire depending on the area you are in and the case at hand. Linen hats may be worn by persons in restricted or semi restricted areas provided that the linen hats are changed daily or when visibly soiled.

Unrestricted Area - This area includes a control point which is established to monitor the following: The entrance of patients, personnel and materials; an area to communicate information between personnel within the surgical suite and the rest of the health care facility. Street clothes are permitted in this area.

Semirestricted Area - This includes the most peripheral support areas of the suite. Traffic is limited to authorized personnel and patients. Scrub attire and head covers are ~~is~~ required in this area and shoe covers are optional. When instruments are being removed from autoclaves, or personnel are scrubbing, masks are required.

Restricted Area - This is the area where surgical procedures are performed. Scrub attire is required in this area. Shoe covers are optional; masks are required only when sterile set-up is open.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) are barriers to prevent individuals from having direct contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials. Examples of PPE include gloves, gowns, face shields or mask, eye protection, and shoe covers.

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III. AORN Recommended Standards of Practice:

- A. **Recommended Practice I**
All individuals who enter the Semirestricted and restricted areas in the surgical department should wear freshly laundered surgical attire intended for use only in the OR suite. Surgical attire that becomes visibly soiled, contaminated or wet should be replaced with fresh, clean, surgical attire.
- B. **Recommended Practice II**
Individuals who enter the OR suite will cover their head and facial hair when in the semirestricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite. Approved head covers are provided by the hospital and are to be disposed of as soon as possible after daily use or immediately if it becomes soiled. Reusable hats must be changed and laundered daily or immediately if it becomes visibly soiled, it must be changed immediately.
- C. **Recommended Practice III**
Masks must be worn by individuals entering restricted areas of the OR suite and when open sterile items and/or equipment are present. Masks should cover both the nose and mouth and secured in a manner that prevents venting. When removing masks, only the ties should be handled; the mask discarded immediately when leaving the OR suite. Masks should not be saved, hang loosely around the neck or saved for future use.
- D. **Recommended Practice IV**
OR staff entering the semirestricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite should confine or remove jewelry and watches. Members of the surgical team in the scrub role must remove jewelry, including watches and rings.
- E. **Recommended Practice V**
Fingernails should be kept short, clean, natural and healthy. OR/PACU fingernails **must** be free of any artificial nail enhancements, to include but not limited to acrylic, bonding, tips, wrappings and tapes. Nail polish must be free of any chips or cracks.
- F. **Recommendation VI**
Personal protective equipment (PPE) are available and must be used in order to reduce the risk of exposure to potentially infectious materials and worn.
 - 1) Sterile gloves must be worn when performing sterile procedures
 - 2) Non-sterile gloves are recommended for non-sterile activities.
 - 3) Gloves should be changed between patient contacts and after contact with contaminated items.
 - 4) Hand washing or the use of Purell is **required** after removing gloves.

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References:

AORN (2006). *Standards, recommended practices, and guidelines*. AORN Inc., Denver, CO