POLICY: SURGICAL/PROCEDURAL ATTIRE

CONTENT:
1. The dress code for the Operating Rooms, other invasive procedural areas, and support areas with designated semi-restricted and restricted areas shall be in accordance with Medical Center Policy No. 0051, based on AORN Recommended Practices for Surgical Attire, and this policy.

2. Personal protective equipment (PPE) (gloves, gowns, masks, eyewear, and disposable, fluid resistant shoe covers) is available to all personnel at risk of exposure to potentially infective materials. PPE must be worn in accordance with guidelines as listed in the local area Exposure Control Plan Protective. PPE must be removed prior to leaving the surgical or procedural area.

3. Protective eyewear (masks with full face shields, wraparound glasses, goggles and full face shields) must be worn by all personnel within the sterile field. Eye glasses are not considered protective eyewear unless side shields are applied.

4. All individuals who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas must wear the designated Medical Center issued surgical/procedural attire. This attire must be freshly laundered by the approved facility laundry service and donned daily at the beginning of the shift or work day and shall be exchanged for street clothes when leaving the facility. Movement within contiguous buildings is allowed without use of cover gowns or coats. Going outside in designated surgical attire is not allowed. Additionally, surgical/procedural attire should be changed after entering isolation rooms on acute care floors or critical care units when returning to the home unit.

   Proper attire in the semi-restricted and restricted areas shall include:
   A. Disposable surgical caps. Cloth hats may be worn, if covered by a disposable cap when in the semi-restricted or restricted areas.
      a. Caps must cover all hair.
      b. Disposable hoods must be worn by staff with facial hair.
   B. Scrub pants and tops:
      a. Staff must wear designated surgical attire laundered by the facility approved laundry service.
      b. Tops shall be tucked in to pants or fit close to the body.
   C. Jackets:
      When in the semi-restricted and restricted areas, non scrubbed personnel should wear a designated warm up jacket, snapped closed with the cuffs down to the wrists.
   D. Disposable shoe covers are considered PPE and should be selected for wear accordingly. If worn, they must be changed when visibly soiled, wet, or worn and always be removed prior to leaving the surgical or procedural area.
   E. Surgical/procedural attire that becomes wet or otherwise contaminated with blood and/or body fluids must be changed.
5. Only approved clothing shall be worn under scrub suits (i.e. short sleeve t-shirts, and short sleeve thermal garments). Crew neck short sleeve t-shirts are acceptable. Shirt sleeves are not to extend beyond the short sleeve of the scrub top. No turtlenecks or long sleeve undergarments of any type are to be worn.

6. **Medical Center issued surgical/procedural attire is not to be worn to and from work per Medical Center Policy No. 0051 “Attire and Personal Appearance” and therefore should not be removed from the facility.**

7. Shoes are to be clean and offer protection from injury. They shall be of a closed design (both toe and back), low heel, non-skid soles, having no holes or perforations, and be composed of material that is easily cleaned.

8. Surgical masks are to be worn at all times in restricted areas, whenever there is a surgery/procedure in progress or setup for a sterile procedure has begun.
   a. Masks are **not** required in the OR core areas as they are semi-restricted.
   b. A new facemask shall be used for each surgery/procedure.
   c. Used face masks must be appropriately discarded immediately following a procedure.
   d. Face masks **may not be dangled around the neck or be placed in pockets after use.**
   e. Face masks **must** be removed and discarded upon leaving the surgical/procedural area or in lounge areas.
   f. For staff moving quickly from one OR room or procedure suite to another via semi-restricted halls, a mask may be kept on but should be left in place. If found dangling, it should be removed.

9. Jewelry (i.e., earrings, necklaces, etc.) must be totally confined in the scrub attire or removed. **Note:** **Rings and watches must always be removed prior to surgical hand scrubs.**
   a. No bracelets are allowed.
   b. A watch may be worn when not surgically scrubbed.
   c. Rings should be kept to a minimum (i.e. Wedding bands).
   d. Necklace (simple, i.e. single chain with small pendant) may be worn if confined within the scrub attire.
   e. Small earrings, posts that do not dangle or exceed ½ inch in diameter are acceptable but must be kept under the cap when in the semi-restricted, restricted, or other areas where surgery/procedures are being performed.
   f. **Excessive jewelry is not acceptable.**

10. Consistent with Medical Center Policy No. 0051, perfume, after-shave, or any item that is deemed by area management as interfering with patient care or an employee’s ability to do his/her job should not be worn. This includes any strong odor that is considered offensive by either a patient or another employee.

11. Large bags, backpacks, suitcases, or other personal clothing, etc. that are not wipeable (i.e. of porous materials) are not to be carried into the semi-restricted or restricted areas. Bags housing equipment necessary for a procedure should remain outside of these areas.
12. All visitors and ancillary support (Ex: Biomed, Engineering, Environmental Services) staff must adhere to this surgical attire policy in semi-restricted and restricted areas.

   a. Such persons entering the semi-restricted or restricted areas for a brief period of time may use a “bunny suit” or hospital provided single use jump suit, along with appropriate head covering if non-scrubbed and acceptable to the team.

13. Identification badges shall be worn by all personnel in all areas including semi-restricted and restricted areas. They must be secured on the surgical attire top, be visible and be cleaned if they become soiled.

14. Stethoscopes must be cleaned between patients. It is also encouraged that stethoscopes not be draped around the neck as has been advocated in AORN guidelines. Fabric stethoscope covers may not be worn.

15. **Nail polish may not be worn by those performing a surgical hand scrub.** Polish may be worn by others and must be in good repair (non-chipped) as per Medical Center Policy No. 0051, “nails should be clean and appropriate for job duties. An employee with direct patient contact shall keep nails less than ¼ inch long and shall not wear artificial nails or nail extenders of any type.” Gel or shellac type nail polish is considered to be artificial and may not be used (test is: can it be removed with regular polish remover?).

16. All staff members in the organization have the authority and responsibility to monitor proper surgical attire compliance for their assigned areas, as well as for public areas. Variances should be corrected immediately. If further mediation is required, non-compliance issues will be addressed by the local area manager, the Medical Director and/or the ACMO. Non-compliance can result in progressive disciplinary action.

**REFERENCE:**

- OR Procedure “Surgical Hand Scrub with Water”
- OR Procedure “Surgical Hand Scrub without Water”
- 2011 AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices
- Exposure Control Plan
- Medical Center Policy No. 0051 “Attire and Personal Appearance”.

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