

Infection Control – Surgical Suite Attire Policy

PURPOSE:

The Infection Control Surgical Suite Attire Policy establishes guidelines to reduce the risk of healthcare associated infections for patients and personnel in the surgical suite.

PERSONS AFFECTED:

All Geisinger personnel working in a surgical suite.

POLICY:

The Infection Control Surgical Attire Policy:

- Is based on the fact that Geisinger administration and staff recognize the potential hazards facing patients and healthcare workers related to healthcare associated infections.
- Defines infection prevention and control practices that will ensure the safety of patients, employees and visitors by minimizing the risk of acquisition and transmission of healthcare associated infections.
- Complies with regulatory and accreditation requirements related to the prevention and reporting of infections.

DEFINITIONS: OSHA-Occupational Safety and Health Administration

RESPONSIBILITIES:

Oversight of this process is the responsibility of:

- The Clinical Director and Operations Manager Surgical Suite and Women's OR at all Geisinger Locations.
- Director, All Ambulatory Surgery Centers and Endoscopy Center.
- All Geisinger surgical staff are responsible for following the practices outlined in this policy.

PROCEDURE:

1. General Regulations:

- a. All persons are required to wear visible name tags. Lanyards must be removed when entering the surgical suite.
- b. Purses, fanny packs and backpacks may not be brought into the surgical suite.
- c. All individuals who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas should wear scrub attire that has been laundered at a health care-accredited laundry facility or disposable scrub attire provided by the facility and intended for use within the perioperative setting. Once donned in the facility, scrubs cannot be worn outside of the facility.
- d. Home laundering is not permitted.
- e. When surgical gowns are worn for warmth, they must be worn with all strings tied, and they may only be worn in the surgical suite. Disposable or regular warm-up jackets must be worn buttoned or snapped closed and disposed of daily. Perioperative personnel must change back into street clothes if they need to leave the facility or travel between buildings to prevent contaminating the surgical attire through contact with the external environment.

f. Specific attire requirements are determined by the geographic distinction between Restricted, Semi-restrictive and Unrestricted areas.

- i. Restricted Zone - requires complete scrub attire, including:
 - 1) Hospital-issued scrubs or disposable white coveralls
 - 2) Mask (see specifics below)
 - 3) Shoe covers or dedicated shoes
 - 4) Head covers. Personnel entering the restricted areas should cover their head, hair, and facial hair.
- ii. Semi-restricted Zone – requires:
 - 1) Hospital-issued scrubs or disposable white coveralls
 - 2) Head covers. Personnel entering the restricted areas should cover their head, hair, and facial hair. Hospital-issued scrubs are required in Endoscopy areas.
- iii. Unrestricted Zone – Street clothes are permitted in this area.

g. A laboratory coat or cover-up is highly recommended when leaving a restricted or semi-restricted zone and going into an unrestricted zone, especially when the intent is to return to a restricted area.

h. Prior to surgical hand scrub jewelry (rings, bracelets, watches) should be removed.

i. For non-scrubbed personnel jewelry (e.g. earrings, necklaces, bracelets) that cannot be contained or confined within the scrub attire should not be worn in the semi restricted or restricted areas.

j. Fingernails must be less than ¼ inch long and free of nail polish. Artificial nails and extenders are not permitted per OSHA Bloodborne Standards.

k. Additional General Operating Room Attire:

- i. Clean scrub pants and scrub tops are required.
 - 1) Socks are recommended.
 - 2) Plain, short-sleeve tee shirts may be worn if adequately covered by scrub attire.
 - 3) Shoe covers are available and must be worn if designated shoe are not being used. Shoes with holes (i.e., Crocs or similar brands) are not permitted in restricted areas per OSHA Bloodborne Standards.
 - 4) Scrubs, disposable scrubs, or white coveralls are provided for anyone that does not have a scrub valet card or for visitors in Restricted zone or semi restricted zone. White disposable coveralls are for visitors in the restricted zone.
 - i. Specific attire requirements are determined by the geographic distinction between "restricted", "semi-restricted", and "unrestricted" areas.
 - ii. Endoscopy procedures require Personal Protective Equipment must be worn over scrub attire during procedures. This includes moisture barrier gowns and gloves. Masks and eye protection are to be worn if there is a chance of splashing.
 - 5) Visibly soiled, contaminated, or wet surgical scrubs must be removed as soon as possible, and replaced with clean surgical attire.
 - 6) Surgical attire contaminated with blood and body fluids must not be worn outside of the Operating Room.
- ii. Head covers:
 - 1) Personnel entering the restricted and or semi-restricted areas should cover the head, hair, and facial hair.
 - 2) Employees who have difficulty confining all hair in caps will be required to wear two caps or a hood.
 - 3) Disposable head covers must be changed daily or if it becomes soiled.
- iii. Disposable masks:
 - 1) Surgical masks are required in the restricted areas during operations, procedures, or when open sterile items and equipment are present. It is recommended that they be worn at all times in the restricted zones

including when a room is being cleaned and when a case has completed.

2) Mask must cover mouth and nose completely and be secured with all strings tied to prevent venting at sides.

iv. Eyewear

1) Protective eyewear must be utilized during operations and procedures. This includes face shields, goggles, or glasses with side shields.

2. Transitional Zones - exists where one can enter Surgical Suite from unrestricted area to restricted area. These areas are marked with visual signage and are clearly defined by markings on the floor. Street clothes are permitted in this area.

REFERENCES:

AORN.(2017).Guidelines for Perioperative Practice 2015.Guidelines for surgical attire. Recommendations. Retrieved from <http://r2library.com/resource/detail/1888460873/ch0005s007>

Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices 2010 edition OSHA Bloodborne Pathogen Guidelines <http://www.OSHA.gov> ASGE> (2014) Guidelines for safety in the gastrointestinal endoscopy suite. <http://www.giejournal.org/article/S0016-5107%2813%2902698-9/fulltext>