

Children's Hospital and Health System

Infection Prevention and Control Policy and Procedure

This policy applies to the following entity(s):

☒ Milwaukee Hospital ☒ Surgicenter

SUBJECT: Surgical/ Invasive Procedural Department Attire

POLICY

Children's Wisconsin (Children's) recognizes the importance of providing a clean, aseptic environment for all patients receiving surgical care within the Operating Room (OR) and invasive procedural departments. The OR and invasive procedural departments will utilize the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) guidelines, as a guide for surgical attire.

PROCEDURE

1. Surgical Scrubs
 - a. All individuals who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite/ invasive procedural departments must wear facility approved, clean, and laundered surgical attire that has been laundered in a healthcare accredited laundry facility intended for use only within these areas.
 - b. Surgical scrubs dispensed for use in these areas must not be worn outside the building, in the open air.
 - c. Change scrub suits that are visibly soiled, contaminated, and/or are penetrated by blood or other potentially infectious materials.
 - d. Evidence is mixed on the covering of arms in the semi-restricted/restricted areas. Staff may choose to wear long sleeve jackets or gowns, but they are not required. Disposable sleeves are not required to be worn during surgical prepping
 - e. Scrub attire should not be stored in staff lockers for future use. Items may be contaminated by this practice. Clean scrubs should only be stored in the designated area.
 - f. Scrubs from Froedtert Hospital may be worn in the Children's OR, as long as they have not been worn outside the building in the open air. These scrubs should be clean and laundered in a hospital grade laundry
 - g. Hair has been identified, in some evidence, to be a carrier of pathogens that may lead to surgical site infections. To better contain hair that may be present on the chest and not covered by hospital provided surgical scrubs, personal undershirts may be worn to cover the upper chest. Long sleeve shirts should not be worn to cover the arms unless

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Surgical/ Invasive Procedural Department Attire/ Process Owners: Surgical Services CNS, Manager of Imaging, and Infection Prevention Team

covered by a long-sleeved cover jacket approved for use by the facility. Any personal clothing worn under the surgical scrubs must be freshly laundered and not worn on repetitive days.

2. Personal Protective Equipment

- a. Healthcare personnel must wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the perioperative setting as part of the blood borne pathogen standard. Masks in combination with eye protection devices whenever splashes, spray, spatter, or droplets of blood or other potentially infectious materials may be generated and eye, nose or mouth contamination can be reasonably anticipated.
- b. Eye protection devices include goggles, glasses with solid side shields and chin length face shields.
- c. Wear a surgical mask that fully covers the mouth and nose at all times, and fits snugly to the face, in the operating room, center cores, scrub sink areas (during active surgical scrubbing), and all restricted areas. Wear the mask throughout the operation.
- d. Facial hair – Evidence remains mixed on the need to cover facial hair. Tight, well-groomed beards have not been shown to increase surgical site infections if not covered. Longer length beards have been shown to occasionally harbor bacterial organisms.
 - i. Beards that are well groomed can be covered with a surgical mask, with some hair extending beyond the mask
 - ii. Beards that extend off the face, greater than ½ inch, must be covered with a beard cover or surgical hood.
- e. Masks should be removed carefully by handling only the ties, and they should be discarded immediately after use.
- f. Masks should not be saved by hanging them around the neck or tucking them into a pocket for future use.

3. Head Covering

- a. A clean, low-lint surgical head cover or hood that confines all hair and covers scalp skin should be worn. The head cover or hood—should be designed to minimize microbial dispersal. Single-use head coverings should be removed and discarded in a designated receptacle daily or when contaminated.
- b. Cloth surgical head covering is allowed at Children's. All cloth head covering must be only worn on a single day and then placed in the hospital laundry for appropriate cleaning. The contracted healthcare accredited laundry facility will launder head covering and return it to the department for use again.
- c. Religious head coverings should be clean, unadorned, constructed of tightly woven and low-linting material, and should fit securely, with loose ends tucked in the scrub top. Coverings such as kippahs and yarmulkes that cover only a portion of the hair and scalp may be worn under another head covering. All religious head covering must be only worn on a single day and then placed in the hospital laundry for appropriate cleaning. The contracted healthcare accredited laundry facility will launder head covering and return it to the department for use again.

4. Shoes

- a. Clean shoes that are dedicated for use within the perioperative area should be worn.

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- b. Shoes must have closed toes and backs, low heels, nonskid soles and must meet the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirement.
 - c. Shoe covers must be worn when gross contamination can be reasonably anticipated.
 - d. If shoes are not dedicated to for use within the perioperative area, shoe covers should be worn within the restricted and semi-restricted area.
 - e. Croc style shoes may be worn; however, those styles that have holes or openings on them are NOT permitted. Utilizing Croc hole plugs will be permitted if there are no openings not filled
5. Cover apparel
- a. Cover apparel such as hospital provided lab coats worn over scrub attire, must be clean or for single use.
 - b. White lab coats should not be worn in the semi-restricted or restricted areas
 - c. Reusable cover attire must be laundered by a healthcare accredited laundry facility after each daily use or when contaminated.
 - d. Cover apparel that is not laundered by a healthcare accredited laundry facility should not be worn in the restricted or semi-restricted areas.
 - e. Persons entering the semi-restricted or restricted area for a brief time, should don either clean scrub attire laundered by a healthcare accredited laundry facility or a single use jumpsuit that completely covers personal apparel, head coverings, shoe covers, and other PPE as outlined above.
6. Jewelry
- a. Jewelry (e.g., earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings) that cannot be contained or confined within the scrub attire should not be worn in the semi restricted or restricted areas.
 - b. A single watch with a silicone or washable band may be worn by non-scrubbed personnel
 - c. Scrubbed personnel should not have any jewelry on below the elbows, when scrubbed in. Earrings and necklaces should be contained within the scrub attire or covered with the surgical cap
 - d. A single wedding ring may be worn by non-scrubbed personnel. Silicone rings that can be easily cleaned are preferred but not required
7. Miscellaneous Items
- a. Ear Buds – Earbuds of all kinds are not permitted in the semi-restricted or restricted areas. Ear buds may be utilized in non-patient care areas (e.g. lounges and hallways)
 - b. Fake Eyelashes – Fake eyelashes of any kind are not permitted
 - c. Fanny Packs – Fanny packs may be worn if they are made of a non-porous material and are wipeable. Fanny packs must be wiped down prior to use EACH DAY and should also be cleaned when visibly soiled or after caring for patients in isolation.
 - d. Personal bags that have been brought in from the outside must be covered with a purple bag (available in locker rooms and at semi-restricted entrances) to help protect the introduction of outside bacterial/infectious materials into the operating room space.
8. Sterile Attire
- a. See Aseptic Technique/Maintaining a Sterile Field Policy/Procedure

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