PURPOSE:
To describe proper surgical scrub suit/attire and how to obtain/replace surgical scrub suits thus promoting infection prevention and control, healthcare worker safety, and facilitate a high level of cleanliness and hygiene.

POLICY:
Surgical scrub suit/attire is the apparel designed for the Operating Room, Labor & Delivery Suites, procedural practice settings, and Central Sterile Processing (CSP) that includes: top, pant, and jacket made of tightly woven material; head covering; shoes; mask, protective eyewear and other protective barriers. The surgical scrub suit is the clean outer clothing that is professionally laundered (high temperature wash and dried in a health-care accredited laundry facility) and provided by the hospital. Surgical attire is worn by personnel working in areas where invasive procedures with the potential for blood and body fluid exposures occur.

Unless stated otherwise, for the purpose of this policy, the term “scrub suit” pertains to hospital issued surgical attire.

PROCEDURE:
1. Surgical Attire:
   A. HEADGEAR
      1. A clean disposable cap or hood that confines all hair and completely covers the ears, scalp skin, sideburns and nape of the neck must be worn by all persons who enter the Operating Room suite, Labor & Delivery Suite, procedural settings and CSP.
      2. Head and facial hair must be covered completely, including beards, moustaches and sideburns.
      3. Personalized cloth headgear is not permitted.

   B. MASKS
      1. Face masks completely covering nose and mouth should be worn when entering the OR sterile core and when entering an OR, L&D, Cath Lab, or IR suite where open sterile items are present.
      2. Face masks should conform to the face. For face masks with strings, the bottom strings must be...
tied at the back of the neck and the upper strings must be pulled diagonally back to tie at the top of
the head to prevent venting at the sides of the mask.
3. At no time are two masks to be worn at the same time.
4. Masks should be changed when soiled or moist. Masks should be changed between cases.
5. Masks are to be disposed of in a proper receptacle following use. They are never to be worn
dangling around the neck or placed into a pocket.

C. SHOES:
1. Shoes must be clean and in good repair. No sandals or open toe shoes are allowed.
2. Disposable shoe covers are available and may be worn by all personnel who enter the OR suite,
   L&D suite, procedural practice settings and Central Sterile Processing areas. Shoe covers should
   be worn in cases where gross contamination can reasonably be anticipated. They must be
   changed daily and whenever contaminated with blood or other organic debris.
3. Before leaving the area, shoe covers must be removed and disposed of in an appropriate
   receptacle container.

D. ACCESSORIES:
1. Jewelry (e.g. earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings) that cannot be contained or confined within
   the scrub attire should not be worn in the restricted or semi-restricted areas. Jewelry should not
   interfere with patient care.
2. Outside bags (for example, fanny packs, backpacks, briefcases, purses, etc.) are prohibited in the
   restricted and semi-restricted areas of the OR, L&D as well as in procedural practice settings and
   inside CSP. These items may harbor pathogens or dust and are thus prohibited.

E. CLOTHING:
1. Street clothes as well as uniforms may be worn to work, but must be changed before the
   individual enters the restricted and semi-restricted areas of the operating room, Labor &
   Delivery Suites, procedural practice settings, and CSP.
2. It is not acceptable to wear scrub suits over street clothes.
3. Under shirts worn should not extend beyond scrub shirts.
4. Persons entering the operating room, L&D, CSP, and procedural practice settings area for a brief
   time, e.g. biomedical personnel, may don single-use paper scrubs or a single-use jumpsuit (e.g.
   bunny suit, coveralls) designed to completely cover personal apparel. Single-use jumpsuits may
   not be worn by personnel scrubbing in on any procedures.
F. SCRUB Suits:
A clean surgical scrub suit is the mandatory attire and will be provided to workforce members who work in the following areas:
- Operating Room (OR)
- Labor and Delivery (L&D)
- Central Sterile Processing (CSP)
- Cardiac Catheterization Lab (CC Lab)
- Interventional Radiology (IR)
- Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) - Assigned nursing staff only.

Scrub suits for personnel directly involved in the procedure will be provided by the hospital. Disposable scrub suits may also be used and are available from the Warehouse and are to be ordered by each department.

Scrub suits in other areas of the hospital will be optional attire, considered a uniform, and will not be provided by the hospital (e.g. Nurseries, Adult & Pediatric Intensive Care Units, Wards, etc.).

If a workforce member wears scrubs from home and needs to go into the identified mandatory scrub suit areas, they must either change to a hospital laundered scrub suit or change to a hospital approved disposable scrub suit.

1. Reusable scrub suits worn in the areas identified above in Sections 1 and 2 must be laundered through the hospital’s contracted laundry facility.

2. Scrub suits are to be changed daily, wearing a clean scrub suit each day.

3. Scrub suits must be changed when they become wet or soiled. If the laundry distribution room is closed and the employee does not have a clean scrub suit, a hospital approved disposable scrub suit must be worn.

4. Workforce members working in areas where mandatory scrub suit is required must have arms covered in the restricted areas.

5. Workforce members working in areas where mandatory scrub suit is required are issued scrub suit attire (pants, tops, and jackets) at the onset of employment and must return scrub suits at the time of transferring out of the areas and at the conclusion of employment as part of the checkout process.

   Note: Scrub attire requiring repair should be identified by the employee with the Linen Department at the time of return.

II. Procedure for obtaining scrub suits for rotating/contract staff:

1. Workforce member requests surgical scrub suits from Linen Room located in basement of medical center. A maximum of 2 sets (top, pants and jacket) will be issued.
2. The Linen Room personnel will complete a “Garment Exchange Form” documenting the name, respective department, number of scrub suits, and current date. The Workforce member must have his/her Hospital I.D. badge when making the request.

3. The workforce member will take the complete “Garment Exchange Form” to the Main Cashier’s window on the first floor and ask to make a payment for “Scrub Deposit”. A deposit of $22 per scrub item ($66 for each scrub set) is required for a maximum of 2 sets.

4. Workforce member will then take receipt for scrub deposit and Garment Exchange form back to Linen Room for dispensing of surgical scrub suits. The Linen Room personnel will keep the receipt/Garment Exchange form on file for return once the Surgical Scrubs suits are returned.

5. If the Workforce member I.D. badge is encoded with the proximity chip, this will be activated to be utilized with the ScrubEx dispenser to allow for scrub exchange. Importantly, a maximum of 2 scrub sets can be exchanged and recognized at any time.

6. At the completion of the rotation, the workforce member should return ALL dispensed scrubs to the Linen Room or into the ScrubEx machine. The workforce member must reconcile this return with the Linen Room personnel. Once reconciled, the Linen Room personnel will release the Scrub deposit receipt and Garment Exchange form to the workforce member with evidence that the ALL scrubs have been returned and that their scrub deposit may be refunded.

7. The workforce member must return both the Scrub deposit and Garment Exchange form to the Main Cashier for issuance of reimbursement. Request for reimbursement will be processed and a check will be mailed to the workforce member for the total deposited amount. Reimbursement usually takes up to 2 weeks after request is submitted.

8. Failure to return ALL dispensed scrubs will result in forfeiture of part or all of the Scrub deposit.

III. Additional Infection Prevention and Control Guideline:
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) used in these areas must be removed prior to leaving the patient and the immediate work area. This includes gloves, masks, aprons, shoe covers, single use jump suits and disposable gowns.

REFERENCES:

BBP OSHA Fact Sheet as accessed 5-22-2013:

SUBJECT: SURGICAL SCRUB SUITS/ATTIRE


Revised and Approved by:
Medical Executive Committee on 10/2017

[Signature]

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