



QUINTE HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

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Surgical – Perioperative Dress Code

Title: Surgical – Perioperative Dress Code		Policy No:	3.23.15
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Department:	Surgical Program	Policy Lead:	Surgical Program Director
Approved By:			

1. POLICY

All persons carrying on activities at Quinte Healthcare Corporation (QHC), including employees, contract workers, volunteers, physicians, students, undergraduates, post graduates, and medical trainers, shall promote a professional image by appearing well groomed and appropriately attired. In addition to the QHC Human Resources Corporate Employee Dress Code policy (#4.4.8), the perioperative environment has additional attire requirements. The purpose of this policy and procedure is to help ensure the safety of both patients and staff, promote professionalism, and contribute to the sterility and cleanliness of the perioperative environment.

Violations of the dress code policy will be addressed by the manager; continued violations will result in progressive disciplinary action.

2. DEFINITIONS

Unrestricted Areas: Include the preoperative holding area, post-aesthetic care unit, or manager’s office. Street clothes are permitted in unrestricted areas

Semi-Restricted Areas: Include clean and sterile supply rooms, storage areas, scrub sink areas, and corridors leading to restricted areas. Personnel must wear appropriate surgical attire and cover their head and facial hair in semi-restricted areas.

Restricted Areas: Include any areas where scrub personnel are present or where sterile supplies are opened (e.g., OR suite). Personnel must wear appropriate surgical attire, cover their head and facial hair, and wear facemasks in restricted areas.

3. PROCEDURE

Staff

Identification:

- All personnel in the perioperative setting must wear their QHC photo identification and have it clearly visible. Once in an OR suite, the badges may be concealed as to not compromise the sterile field.

Hair/Hats:

- In unrestricted areas, hair must be neat, clean, and worn away from the face. Long hair is to be pinned back when required for aseptic or safety reasons.
- In semi-restricted and restricted areas hospital approved perioperative hats are required for all personnel.
- As per ORNAC Standards (2017) disposable hats are highly recommended and personal who choose to wear home laundered cloth hats should wear a disposable bouffant cap over the cloth hat.
- If personnel chose to wear a cloth hat, **a freshly laundered hat shall be donned everyday.** Be aware that home laundering of cloth hats creates a contamination risk (Phillips, 2013).
- Hair, including facial hair, must be completely confined by a clean hat or beard covering. Hats and beard covers must be changed at least once daily or more frequently if soiled or ripped.
- In the Minor Surgery and Cystoscopy Clinics staff are expected to make an assessment of the sterility of the procedure and risk of infection. Based on this assessment staff are expected to identify cases where a hat should be worn for the procedure and while setting up a sterile tray.

Jewellery:

- Jewellery shall be minimal. Earrings shall be covered by an OR hat; rings, bracelets, or watches may not be worn in restricted areas.

Nails

- Nails shall be neatly groomed, short (less than 6mm), natural and clean. Nail polish, artificial nails, extenders or artificial enhancers shall not be worn.

Attire:

- Approved surgical scrubs are the required uniform for personnel in the perioperative setting.
- Surgical scrubs must not be worn outside of QHC, including to and from work. Exception: surgical scrubs may be worn on an emergency/urgent transfer with a patient, however they should be changed upon return to QHC.
- Personal clothing (i.e. long sleeve undershirt or 'warm-up jackets') that cannot be completely covered by surgical attire should not be worn in semi-restricted or restricted areas.

- Long sleeve scrub jackets (i.e., ‘warm-up jackets’) or downgraded scrub gowns can be worn over surgical scrubs by non-scrubbed personnel in the restricted area. These must also be laundered daily by a hospital approved laundry facility.
- Surgical scrubs must be covered with a clean lab coat or downgraded scrub gown when any perioperative personnel leave the OR department.
- Surgical attire should be placed in a designated container for washing or disposal and should not be hung or stored in a locker.

Sterile Attire:

- For sterile procedures, the appropriate sterile gown must be worn according to the anticipated risk of exposure.
- QHC stocks “The Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation” (AAMI) Level 2 (polyester, microfiber), Level 4 (Gore/‘Xalt’), and disposable (custom pack) Level 4 sterile gowns.
- For procedures requiring a:
 - o Level 1 or 2 gown, perioperative staff would select a Level 2, polyester gown*.
 - o For procedures requiring a Level 3 or 4 gown, perioperative staff would select a Level 4, Xalt gown or a Level 4 disposal gown.
 - o *Staff always have the option to select a higher level of protection than dictated by the anticipated exposure risk.

AAMI Level	Risk of Exposure: Fluid Amount	Risk of Exposure: Fluid Spray or Splash	Risk of Exposure: Pressure on gown	Examples of Procedures with Anticipated Exposure Risk
Level 1	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal	Simple excisional biopsies, excision of “lumps and bumps”, ophthalmological procedures, simple ear, nose, and throat (ENT) procedures
Level 2	Low	Low	Low	Tonsillectomies and adenoidectomies, Simple orthopaedic procedures during which tourniquets are used, open hernia repair, Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)
Level 3	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Mastectomies, arthroscopic orthopaedic procedures, endoscopic urological procedures (e.g., Transurethral Prostate Resections [TURP]), open gastrointestinal and genitourinary procedures
Level 4	High	High	High	Any procedure in which the surgeon’s hands and arms are in a body cavity, orthopedic procedures during which tourniquets are not used, open cardiovascular or thoracic procedures, trauma procedures, caesarean sections

Footwear

- Footwear must be slip or skid resistant in keeping with the QHC Human Resources Corporate Employee Dress Code policy #4.4.8. See Appendix A for Footwear Guidance Document.

Eyewear and Masks

- Health care workers must wear protective eyewear if splash is anticipated. Prescription eye glasses are not considered adequate protection.
- Reusable eyewear (e.g., goggles) shall be cleaned after use.
- All personnel shall wear a single surgical mask during procedures and/or in the presence of open sterile supplies. The type of mask that offers the most appropriate protection for the specific circumstances shall be worn (e.g., surgical mask, N95). Masks should not hang around the neck or be stored in pockets. Masks should be changed between procedures or immediately if they become soiled.
- In the Minor Surgery and Cystoscopy Clinics staff are expected to make an assessment of the sterility of the procedure and risk of infection. Based on this assessment staff are expected to identify cases where a mask should be worn for the procedure and while setting up a sterile tray.

Patient

- Patients should wear a clean gown, hair covering, and be covered with clean linen.
- Patients are not required to wear a mask in the surgical suite unless immunocompromised or under airborne precautions.
- Patients who wear head covering for religious reasons will be permitted to do so unless it interferes with the surgery or poses additional risks. If possible, these should be covered with a disposable bouffant.
- All jewellery must be removed prior to surgery
 - o Exception: patients will be permitted to wear rings which cannot be removed or religious artefacts unless they are on the operative side/site and pose additional risks that could otherwise be avoided. Consultation with the physician is encouraged if there is uncertainty.
 - o If possible, jewellery should be taped in place.
- For outpatient surgery:
 - o The patient may wear some of their own clothing, especially if the clothing does not interfere with the procedure and the procedure is short in duration. However, the patient should still wear a clean gown over their clothing, have their hair covered and be covered with clean linens.
 - o Jewellery, dentures, glasses can be worn if they do not interfere with the surgery or pose additional risk.

Visitors

- Visitors requiring limited time in the semi-restricted or restricted areas (e.g., parents accompanying children, law enforcement officers and/or biomedical engineers) may don cover gowns along with head and facial hair coverings.

- Visitors who will remain in the semi-restricted or restricted areas for any extended period of time (e.g., product representatives) will follow the staff section of the dress code.
- At the discretion of the surgeon and anaesthesiologist, one support person will be allowed in the OR for caesarean sections done under regional anaesthesia, the support person will don a cover gown, mask, head and facial hair coverings.

APPENDICES AND REFERENCES

Appendices: Appendix A – Perioperative Footwear Guide

References:

Accreditation Canada. (2018). *Perioperative services and invasive procedures*. Ottawa, ON: Health Standards Organization.

American College of Surgeons. (2016). *Statement on operating room attire*. Retrieved from <https://www.facs.org/about-ac/s/statements/87-surgical-attire>

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN). (2015). *Surgical attire: Guidelines and clinical resources*. Denver, CO: AORN.

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Mathias, J. M. (2011). Winning against SSI readmissions. *OR Manager* 27, 22-23.

McHugh, S. M., Corrigan, M. A., Hill, A. D. K., & Humphreys, H. (2014). Surgical attire, practices and their perception in the prevention of surgical site infection. *The Surgeon*, 12(1), 47-52.

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Phillips, N. M. (2013). *Berry and Kohn's operating room technique* (12th ed.). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier Mosby.

Rothrock, J.C. (2017). *Alexander's care of the patient in surgery*. (16th ed.). St. Louis, MI: Elsevier.

St. Joseph's Healthcare. (2009). *Personal Appearance/Dress Code*. Policy Manual. Hamilton, ON: St Joseph's.

Cross References:

4.4.8—QHC Corporate Employee Dress Code

2.18.1—Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) – Dress code and personal protective equipment

3-50/6.0—Routine Practices and Additional Precautions
3-05/5.22—Additional Precautions: Airborne