

PERIOPERATIVE ATTIRE – OPERATING SUITE - CHW

POLICY®

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Perioperative attire must be worn in all operating rooms and restricted areas
- Perioperative attire assists in reducing microbial contamination and surgical site infections
- Anything that can come into contact with a patient must be secured
- Personal protective apparel is worn prior to scrubbing
- Personal head covers and headwear worn for religious or cultural reasons must be correctly laundered and changed daily
- Jewellery worn within the operating suite is limited to necklaces of a plain design, one unadorned plain band ring and earrings with a stud or sleeper design (8-12mm), provided they are fully covered within the perioperative attire
- Rings must be removed before performing hand antisepsis for any aseptic procedure.
- If perioperative attire is worn outside of The Children's Hospital at Westmead (CHW) facility, all perioperative attire must be changed on return to CHW
- This document should be read in conjunction with the [SCHN Uniforms, Dress Code & Appearance policy](#).

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| Approved by: | SCHN Policy, Procedure & Guideline Committee | |
| Date Effective: | 1 st April 2023 | Review Period: 3 years |
| Team Leader: | Clinical Nurse Educator | Area/Dept: Operating Suite - CHW |

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Updated in accordance with Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN) Standards 2020 (16th edition)
- A white gown is no longer required to be worn over perioperative attire when leaving the CHW operating suite and remaining within the CHW facility.
- The Operating Suite Infection Control Precautions for COVID 19 are included
- Wearing of a wrist watch is not permitted
- Headwear worn for cultural or religious reasons must be correctly laundered and changed daily.
- **02/05/24:** Minor review – Changed 'Rings must be removed before scrubbing' to 'Rings must be removed before performing hand antisepsis for any aseptic procedure'

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All nursing staff, medical staff, allied health personnel, porters, operations assistants, and cleaners working in the operating suite are required to read and acknowledge this policy.
- All hospital personnel and visitors, including medical company representatives and students, to the operating suite are required to be made aware of the policy and its requirements.

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1 Introduction

Health care organisations have systems in place to minimise the risk of preventable healthcare associated infection.^{1,2,3} Perioperative attire is an aspect of environmental infection control practices. The wearing of perioperative attire is required to reduce the introduction of microorganisms in the perioperative environment.^{2,3}

Compliance with correct perioperative attire is required of all hospital personnel and visitors to the operating suite and designated areas.

This policy has been developed for the protection of staff, patients, and visitors.

2 Procedure

Perioperative attire is required to be worn within the operating suite and designated areas.

The operating suite has many designated areas with varying perioperative attire requirements for the non-restricted, semi-restricted and restricted areas.

2.1 Non-restricted areas

Non-restricted areas do not require perioperative attire to be worn. There is unlimited access by all personnel, patients and their families wearing either perioperative attire or street clothes.^{2,3}

Non-restricted areas include reception, preoperative waiting area, staff tearoom, change rooms, de-boxing room, Middleton day stay, operating suite conference room, anaesthetic department and offices.

2.2 Semi-restricted areas

The semi-restricted areas are limited to authorised personnel (staff) and selected visitors. Perioperative staff are required to wear perioperative attire.^{2,3} Other authorised personnel and selected visitors temporarily accessing semi-restricted areas, may wear a head covering and a blue gown securely tied at the back.

Semi-restricted areas include sterile stock room, sterilising department (CSSD), MRI, post anaesthesia care units (PACU).

Post Anaesthesia Care Unit (PACU) - Recovery

Perioperative staff are to wear perioperative attire in PACU with or without a head covering. If hair is uncovered then hair should be neat and tidy and long hair tied back off the collar. (Refer to [Appendix 1](#))

If staff are entering the restricted areas from PACU they must wear a head covering.

Parents and visiting Medical Officers may wear street clothes in PACU.

2.3 Restricted areas

Access is restricted to authorised personnel only and staff must wear perioperative attire, surgical attire and personal protective equipment (PPE) in accordance with the ACORN Standards 16th edition (Refer to [Appendix 1](#)).

Restricted areas include the operating suite beyond the designated red line, cardiac catheterisation lab, interventional neurovascular lab, and Electrophysiology Studies (EPS) lab.

- Staff shall replace all outer garments with the prescribed perioperative attire when entering the operating suite and change perioperative attire daily or when wet, contaminated or soiled.^{2,3,4}
- Legs must be covered either by wearing a pantsuit (consisting of pants and a shirt) or pantyhose with a dress.
- Blue warm up gowns and jackets with long sleeves and cuffed wrists may be worn inside the operating suite. Knee-length warm up gowns must be tied up at the back and short warm up jackets should be buttoned up at the front.^{2,3}
- Perioperative attire is to be supplied and laundered by the hospital.²

Head coverings

- Hair must be completely covered, this includes sideburns and facial hair, and cover the nape of the neck.^{2,4}
- Anything that can come into contact with a patient must be secured.
- Disposable caps and scarves are provided by the hospital and must be changed daily or when soiled.^{2,4} Personal woven fabric head covers may be worn and must be correctly laundered on a hot wash as recommended,⁵ and changed daily or when soiled. Fabric head covers must not be made from 100% cotton.²
- Headwear worn for religious or cultural reasons may be worn and must be correctly laundered on a hot wash as recommended,⁵ and changed daily or when soiled.
- Dedicated footwear can be worn providing it complies with Work, Health and Safety Standards, is of a design and material that permits cleaning and that provide protection by being fully enclosed over the forefoot.^{2,3}
- Shoes are to be cleaned when soiled and hands washed after handling shoes.²
- Overshoe covers may be worn over shoes if gross contamination is expected, and hands washed after handling shoe covers.^{2,4}

Note: The effect of shoe covers in limiting microbial load and preventing surgical site infection has not been demonstrated.^{2,3,4}

Jewellery (Clinical Staff)

Jewellery, hair clips and hair pins worn in the perioperative environment shall be minimal and limited to items that can be contained within perioperative attire. Wearing of jewellery is in accordance with ACORN standards and the SCHN '[Uniforms, Dress Code and Appearance Policy](#)'.

The following jewellery is acceptable within the operating suite:

- One unadorned plain band ring.^{3,4,5,7} Rings must be removed before performing hand antisepsis for any aseptic procedure. ^{2,3}
- Earrings of a stud or sleeper design (8-12mm) confined by the headcovering.²
- Any jewellery on the wrists need to be removed - 'bare below the elbow'. ^{3,4,6,7}
- It is strongly recommended that necklaces are not to be worn anywhere in the operating suite. However, if worn, a plain single chain must be completely covered by perioperative attire at all times.
- Other visible jewellery, such as body piercings, should be kept to a minimum and covered within perioperative attire.

Nails

- Fingernails are to be clean, short, healthy and free of nail polish and artificial nails.²

Identification Badges

- Identification badges are to be worn at all times.
- Identification badges must be clearly visible and attached to the outside of the perioperative attire at chest height with a clip.⁶
- Lanyards must not be worn.^{2,4,6}

Personal Protective Equipment

- Eye protection (safety glasses or visor masks) and/or face protection, must be worn during procedures and patient care activities that are likely to generate splashes and sprays of blood, body fluids, secretions and excretions.^{1,2} Safety glasses are issued by the clinical nurse educators.
- The instrument nurse is required to double glove when scrubbing. ²
- Gloves must be worn when in contact with blood or body substances and/or contaminated items or when contact is anticipated.^{7,8}
- A level 3 surgical masks is to be worn where a sterile field is prepared or maintained and where there is a risk of blood, body fluid, secretion or excretion splash.^{2,3,4,8} The surgical mask must cover both the nose and mouth.^{2,3} Surgical masks must be changed after each operative case or as soon as possible when soiled. Surgical masks must be removed completely and disposed of when no longer required.

- An impervious gown such as a plastic apron or a disposable gown should be worn if a risk of soiling the perioperative attire is expected.² This includes wearing a plastic gown under a sterile linen gown as required.
- A lead apron and a thyroid protector should be worn in procedures where x-ray is used. The lead apron and thyroid protector should then be cleaned and stored correctly by the user when removed.⁹
- Select the appropriate mask and additional PPE for the surgical procedure or infectious nature of the patient.^{2,4,8}
- PPE is to be worn in accordance with the '[Infection Control: Standard and Additional Precautions for the Operating Suite – CHW Practice Guideline](#)'

Anaesthetic Bays

- A Parent or carer may attend the anaesthetic bay for the anaesthetic induction of their child wearing a head covering and a blue gown securely tied at the back (Refer to [Appendix 1](#)). Parents or carers proceed directly to the anaesthetic bay accompanied by a member of the operating team or a volunteer and must leave the anaesthetic bay accompanied by a member of staff or a volunteer and be escorted directly back to their point of entry.

2.4 Outside the Operating Suite

- Perioperative attire is permitted to be worn within the hospital facility.
- Perioperative attire must not be worn outside the hospital facility, except in extenuating circumstances. If perioperative attire is worn outside the hospital facility then the perioperative attire must be changed prior to entry into the restricted area of the operating suite.^{2,4}
- Overshoe covers and cover gowns do not need to be worn.⁴

3 References

1. New South Wales Health. (2017). *Infection Control Policy PD 2017_013*. https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2017_013.pdf
2. Australian College of Perioperative Nurses. (2020). *Standards for Perioperative Nursing in Australia* (16th ed.). <https://www.acorn.org.au/acornstandards>
3. Sutherland-Fraser, S., Davies, M., Gillespie, B.M., & Lockwood, B. (2021). *Perioperative Nursing an Introduction* 3rd ed.). Elsevier.
4. Clinical Excellence Commission. (2020). *Infection prevention and control practice handbook*. https://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/383239/IPC-Practice-Handbook-2020.PDF
5. Standards Australia & Standards New Zealand. (2000). *Laundry Practice*. (AS/NZS 4146:2000)
6. Sydney Children's Hospitals Network. (2019). *Uniforms, Dress Code and Appearance Policy*. <http://webapps.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/epolicy/policy/4806>
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8. Children's Hospital Westmead. (2020). *Infection Control: Standard and Additional Precautions for the Operating Suite*. <http://webapps.schn.health.nsw.gov.au/epolicy/policy/3915>
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Appendix 1

the
children's
hospital at Westmead

The Sydney children's
Hospitals Network

Perioperative Attire – PACU



- Staff to wear perioperative attire with or without head coverings
- Hair to be neat and tidy and long hair tied up off the collar
- ID badge to be visible and worn on outside of perioperative attire





Perioperative Attire – Restricted & Semi-restricted Areas



- All hair to be covered by a head cover
- Head covers to be changed daily or when wet or soiled
- Fabric head covers to be laundered daily
- Bearded staff to wear a balaclava

Perioperative attire must:

- Replace all outer garments
- Cover all under garments
- Be changed daily or when soiled or wet
- Have legs covered by pants or pantyhose
- Have ID badges visible & worn on outside of perioperative attire
- Wear non-slip enclosed footwear



- Warm up jacket button at front
- Warm up gown tied at back





Perioperative Attire – Parents/Carers Attending Anaesthetic Induction



- Warm up gown tied at back
- All hair to be covered by a head cover

