

# GUIDELINE ESSENTIALS

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### Surgical Attire



## TAKEAWAY

## EXPLANATION

Personnel should wear clean surgical attire in the semi-restricted and restricted areas and leave scrub apparel at the facility for laundering after each daily use.

- Wearing clean surgical attire in the semi-restricted and restricted areas can reduce the risk of introducing pathogens to the environment and subsequent patient exposure to microorganisms that could contribute to a surgical site infection (SSI). **1.1**
- Wearing attire that is laundered at a health care-accredited laundry facility or at the health care organization in accordance with state regulatory requirements or Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations provides control of the laundering process and helps ensure that effective laundering standards have been met. **1.2**
- Changing out of scrub apparel into street clothes at the end of the day reduces the potential for health care workers to transport pathogenic microorganisms from the facility or health care organization into the home or community.

**1.7**

Arms may be covered during performance of preoperative patient skin antisepsis.

- Although the benefits of wearing long sleeves during performance of preoperative patient skin antisepsis are likely to exceed the harms, further research is needed to confirm the risk-benefit assessment and the effect on SSI outcomes. **3.1**
- No recommendation can be made for wearing long sleeves in the semi-restricted and restricted areas because there is no evidence to evaluate the benefits and harms of wearing long sleeves in the semi-restricted and restricted areas during any activities other than preoperative patient skin antisepsis. **3.2**

Beards should be covered when personnel are entering restricted areas or preparing and packaging instrumentation.

- Microorganisms, including multidrug-resistant species have been found in beards and been found to be shed at high rates into the environment.
- Covering a beard when entering the restricted areas of the OR and procedure room or when preparing and packaging instrumentation in sterile processing can reduce shedding, which may prevent contamination of the sterile field or instruments, thereby reducing the patient's risk for SSI. **5.2**

## TAKEAWAY

## EXPLANATION

The scalp and hair should be covered when personnel enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas.

- Wearing a head covering may contain hair and bacteria that is shed by perioperative team members, which may prevent contamination of the sterile field and reduce the patient's risk for SSI. **5.1**
- No recommendation can be made about whether it is beneficial to cover the ears in the semi-restricted and restricted areas. **5.4**

### NEW

An interdisciplinary team that includes members of the perioperative team and infection preventionists should evaluate and select head coverings. If reusable head coverings are permitted, additional factors should be considered.

- No recommendation can be made for the type of head covers worn in the semi-restricted and restricted areas. The evidence does not demonstrate any association between the type of surgical head covering material or extent of hair coverage and the outcome of SSI rates. **5.3**
- Comfort and correct-sized fit are key factors for consideration, particularly with the use and removal of magnifying loupes and headlights during procedures. **5.3**
- Factors to consider when selecting reusable head coverings include
  - o the type of fabric (eg, nonlinting),
  - o laundering frequency (eg, daily), and
  - o laundering method (eg, facility laundering, home laundering). **5.3.3**

Facilities should establish a process for preventing contamination of the semi-restricted and restricted areas from personal items (briefcases, backpacks) and electronic devices (cell phones, tablets).

- Personal items may be difficult to clean and may harbor pathogens, dust, and bacteria. A process for personal items may include cleaning or containing the item or placing the item in a designated location. **8.3, 8.3.1**
- Electronic devices can be highly contaminated with microorganisms, some potentially pathogenic. Reducing the numbers of microorganisms present on the devices may protect patients from the risk of health care-associated infections resulting from the transfer of microorganisms from the devices or hands of health care workers to patients. A process for electronic devices should include
  - o cleaning and disinfecting the device according to the device manufacturer's instructions for use before bringing it into the OR and
  - o performing frequent hand hygiene when handling these devices throughout the workday. **8.4**