Aims

- All persons within the Operating Suite shall wear appropriate perioperative attire.
- To protect both patients and perioperative personnel.

Key Points

1. Perioperative attire shall replace all outer garments and shall be worn correctly at all times
   - Replace all outer garments with the prescribed Perioperative attire when entering the operating suite;
   - Change Perioperative attire daily or when wet or soiled
   - Fasten warm up jackets with long sleeves which are cuffed at wrists (if worn) when working as non-scrubbed personnel.
   - Perioperative attire shall be provided by the healthcare facility which meets relevant Australian standards in design and manufacture
   - Perioperative attire shall not be worn outside KEMH.
   - Theatre Suite attire may be worn within the Hospital outside the unit.
   - Attire must not be taken home or laundered at home.

2. Perioperative attire shall be worn in the following areas:
   - Operating rooms
   - Holding bay
   - Recovery room

3. Head and facial hair shall be completely covered
   - Apply hair covering to ensure all the hair is covered.
   - All hair, sideburns and beards must be completely covered by a Charnley type hood, and short hair to be covered by a slip on cap
   - Change head covers when soiled and at least daily.
   - Personnel using their own head covers must change them daily and when soiled.

4. Headwear worn for religious or cultural reasons is to be cleaned daily and must be able to be completely covered by perioperative attire. A hood type covering should be worn to completely cover personal headwear.

5. Footwear shall be clean, comply with occupational health and safety standards and be of a design and material to permit appropriate cleaning
• Wear shoes with closed toes and backs, low heels and non-slip soles.
• Clean shoes when soiled.
• Enclosed footwear only may be worn in theatre. Gumboots and socks are available to replace open footwear.
• Overshoes are not to be worn by perioperative staff. Overshoes have been shown to increase floor bacterial counts, and on hands when applied or removed.

6. Personnel scrubbing for a surgical procedure must wear disposable masks and eye protection whenever there is reasonable possibility of splashing or splattering of blood or other body substances.

   ➢ Select the appropriate mask for the surgical procedure for instance if smoke plume is generated or the infectious nature of the patient.
   ➢ Apply the mask securely to completely cover the nose and mouth.
   ➢ Secure the mask using the tapes and avoid touching the mask once it is applied.
   ➢ Remove mask completely into the appropriate receptacle.
   ➢ Wash hands following removal and handling of the mask.
   ➢ Handle a used mask by the tapes only.

7. No persons shall enter an Operating room who is suffering from a respiratory or skin infection.

8. Handkerchiefs will not be taken into the theatre suite. Disposable tissues must be used

9. Identification badges must be worn by staff at all times in the department.

10. Fingernails shall be kept clean, short and free from artificial nails and nail polish

11. No bags of any type shall be brought into the operating room.

12. Jewellery worn within the Perioperative clinical environment shall be minimal and limited.

   • All wristwatches, bracelets and rings (apart from a wedding band) shall be removed.

   • Staff shall remove neck attire.

   • Staff may wear earrings with a stud or sleeper design only if they can be confined within the Perioperative attire.

   • All hand jewellery shall be removed when performing a surgical scrub.

13. Personal protective equipment shall be provided and shall be worn in accordance with all workplace health and safety requirements and the specific needs of each activity.

   • Gloves
   • Gowns
   • Eyewear
   • Masks
- Lead aprons
- Thyroid protectors
- Plastic aprons

14. Paediatric Clinical Staff attending a caesarean section:
- Theatre attire (top and bottom) must be obtained immediately prior to the birth and only from the theatre change room and worn for all elective cases.
- A white gown may be worn over clean theatre blues.
- The white gown must be changed for every new case.
- If a white gown is not used, a plastic apron can be worn (kept in theatre).
- Disposable hats are available in the change rooms or at the airlock if an emergency.
- PPE should be worn and is available for use in the scrub rooms.

15. Paediatric staff and midwives attending a “code blue or category 1” caesarean section:
- A white coat must be worn over uniforms / street clothes and a disposable hat worn, available in the airlock.

References


Related WNHS policies, procedures and guidelines

KEMH Perioperative Clinical Guidelines
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Keywords:</th>
<th>attire in theatre, operating room attire, perioperative clothing requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document owner:</td>
<td>Obstetric, Gynaecology and Imaging Directorate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author / Reviewer:</td>
<td>Evidence Based Clinical Guidelines Co-ordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date first issued:</td>
<td>March 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last reviewed:</td>
<td>September 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Next review date:</td>
<td>September 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Endorsed by:</td>
<td>OGI Management Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards Applicable:</td>
<td>NSQHS Standards: 1 🔄 Clinical Care is Guided by Current Best Practice, 3 🔄 Infection Control,</td>
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