**SCOPE:**

This policy and procedure applies to all personnel who are required to work or be in the perioperative/periprocedural setting at the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH). The perioperative setting includes the Operating Rooms (OR), Endoscopy, and the Birthing Unit (BU) Operating Rooms and the periprocedural setting includes the Cardiac Intervention Unit. This policy is to be followed in conjunction with the RVH Corporate Dress Code policy and procedure.

**POLICY STATEMENT:**

It is the policy of RVH to ensure patient safety by minimizing exposure to and transmission of microorganisms from perioperative and periprocedural staff. RVH-issued surgical attire and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) shall be worn to promote staff safety by reducing the risk of cross contamination of infectious disease and bio hazardous material.

1. All personnel who enter the semi-restricted and restricted areas shall wear appropriate surgical attire.
2. Surgical attire, including cover apparel, shall be changed daily and when soiled/wet.
3. Surgical attire (excluding reusable cloth hats) shall be laundered in a health care approved laundering facility.
4. Personal clothing shall be completely covered by surgical attire.
5. Long sleeved warm up jackets may be worn by non-scrubbed personnel in the restricted and semi-restricted areas.
6. Jewelry that cannot be contained or confined within the surgical attire shall be removed before entering the semi-restricted and restricted areas.
7. Footwear worn in the surgical suite shall be clean and shall meet provincial labour codes and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) in accordance with the level of risk. (Refer to RVH OHS Policy and procedure (2012) 11.20 Footwear).
8. All personnel shall cover all head and facial hair when in restricted and semi-restricted areas. This excludes the control room in the Cardiac Intervention Unit.
9. Fingernails of personnel in the perioperative setting shall be clean, short, natural and appear healthy.
10. All personnel shall wear a single surgical mask during procedures and/or in the presence of open, sterile supplies.
11. Personal protective equipment shall be worn based on risk assessment.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Unrestricted areas:** Areas with unlimited access to all personnel, street clothes are permitted. Includes staff lounges, change rooms, main OR desk area, pre-op waiting area, Endoscopy Suites, corridor that passes through Endoscopy/Cystoscopy area and Post Anesthetic Care Unit (PACU).

**Semi-restricted areas:** Limited to authorized personnel who are required to wear appropriate surgical attire including head and facial hair cover. Includes the peripheral support areas, clean and sterile supplies, scrub sink areas, work areas, OR, Cardiac Intervention Unit perimeter corridor, center core, and Medical Devices Reprocessing Department (MDRD).

**Restricted areas:** Includes any area where scrub personnel are present, i.e. the OR suites, including the Cystoscopy suite, Block Room, BU OR suites, and the scrub sink areas and the Cardiac Intervention Unit procedure rooms. Personnel in these areas must wear surgical attire and head covering (to include all head and facial hair). Masks are required to be worn if sterile supplies or equipment are opened.

**Surgical attire:** Surgical apparel worn within the semi-restricted and restricted areas of the surgical suite. It includes two-piece scrub suit, warm-up jackets, head coverings (disposable and/or reusable cloth), shoes, masks, protective eyewear and other protective barriers.

**Artificial fingernails:** Substances or devices applied or added to the natural nail to augment or enhance the wearer’s own nails. Includes but is not limited to acrylic nails, overlays, tips, bondings, extensions, tapes, inlays, and wraps.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. All personnel shall don freshly laundered scrub attire in a designated dressing area before entry to the restricted and semi-restricted areas.
2. Surgical attire must be changed daily and whenever it becomes visibly soiled, contaminated or wet.
3. Personal cloth hats, if worn, should be changed and laundered after each daily use.
4. Scrub tops should be tucked in or fit close to the body to prevent skin shedding.
5. Long sleeved warm-up jackets should be snapped closed with cuffs to the wrist.
6. Warm-up jackets should be changed daily and must be laundered in a health care approved laundering facility.
7. Surgical attire should not be hung in a locker to be worn later.
8. If surgical attire is worn outside the facility, it should be removed and new attire donned before reentry into the restricted or semi-restricted areas.
9. Personal clothing, i.e. long sleeve T-shirts that extend above the scrub top neckline or below the sleeve of the scrub top shall not be worn.
10. Jewelry, including earrings, nose rings, body piercings, necklaces, watches and bracelets that cannot be contained or confined within the surgical attire should not be worn as they increase bacterial counts on skin surfaces.
11. Rings and watches shall be removed before hand washing or using hand rubs.
12. Footwear shall have closed toes and backs, low heels, non-skid soles and shall be easy to clean.
13. Shoes should not have holes or perforations as this would not protect the feet from exposure to blood, body fluids or other potentially infectious liquids.
14. Shoe covers may be worn if splash and spills of body fluids are anticipated to prevent contamination outside the OR/Cardiac Intervention Unit. Shoe covers shall be removed or changed when soiled, or when leaving the department.
15. Artificial nails shall not be worn.
16. Natural nails should be short, clean and well-cared for.
17. Fingernails shall be polish free.
18. All personnel shall wear a surgical mask during procedures and/or in the presence of open sterile supplies.
19. The type of mask worn should be one that offers the most appropriate protection for the specific circumstances.
20. Well-fitting masks shall be worn over the nose and mouth with both ties secured.
21. Masks shall be changed between procedures and when they become wet or soiled.
22. Masks shall not be worn around the neck or be stored in pockets.
23. Masks that are fit tested, i.e. N95 or equivalent shall be available to be worn when airborne infection is suspected or confirmed.
24. Protective eyewear shall be worn if a splash is anticipated. Reusable eyewear shall be cleaned after use.
25. Visitors entering semi-restricted and restricted areas of perioperative settings for a limited time shall don cover gowns along with head and facial hair coverings and boot covers prior to entering. Examples include but are not limited to parents accompanying children, law enforcement officers or biomedical engineers, support person attending a Caesarean Section, etc.
* Visitors who will remain in the Operating Room suites during the surgical procedure or for any extended period of time shall be required to wear scrub attire as outlined in this policy for surgical personnel.

**CROSS REFERENCES:**

Royal Victoria Hospital (2015) Corporate Administrative Policy & Procedure: Corporate Dress Code.

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