



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive



Ospidéal Ollscoile Chorcaí
Cork University Hospital

POLICY AND PROCEDURE ON WEARING THEATRE ATTIRE IN CORK UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL GROUP

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1 Policy Statement

Wearing theatre attire in Cork University Hospital Group should be carried out in accordance with the policy outlined below.

2 Purpose

According to Association of Perioperative Practice (2011) the purpose of theatre attire is to provide a barrier that protects the patient from micro-organisms which are shed into the environment from the mucous membranes, skin and hair of theatre personnel and to protect the outside environment from theatre contaminants. The aim of all peri-operative personnel must therefore be to minimise the introduction of micro-organisms to the peri-operative setting. Personnel are able to influence the surgical environment by maintaining strict personal hygiene, wearing theatre attire correctly, reporting potential health problems, monitoring visitors, not moving in and out of theatre unnecessarily and maintaining a clean environment. According to NICE (2008) all personnel entering the restricted areas of the operating department should wear specific non sterile theatre attire in all areas where operations are undertaken thus decreasing the potential for wound infections in surgical patients.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that scrubs are worn in accordance with best practice.
- Ensure that patient care is delivered by healthcare workers who adhere to a high standard of hygiene both inside and outside the theatre setting at CUHG.

2 Scope

This policy applies to all healthcare workers at CUHG

3 Legislation/Related Policies

- Public Health (Tobacco) Acts 2002 to 2009
- CUH Safety Statement, 2009 Issue 5
- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005
- European Network of Smoke-Free Hospitals and Healthcare Services (ENSH) standards (2009) (Appendix IV)
- Disciplinary Procedure for Employees of the HSE 2007
- CUH Dress Code Policy 2011 – PPG-CUH-CUH-131
- CUH Smoke-Free Campus Policy 2014 - PPG-CUH-CUH-64
- Food Safety legislation- 'Compendium of Food Law in Ireland', Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2008
- CUH Infection Prevention and Control Policies, Procedures and Guidelines 2012

4 Glossary of Terms and Definitions

None

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5 Roles and Responsibilities

5.1 Responsibility for complying with the policy

All line managers

All line managers are to ensure that staff are informed of this policy.

All staff

All staff are responsible for complying with this policy.

5.2 Responsibility for ensuring compliance with the policy

Line Managers

Line Managers maintain overall responsibility for ensuring that all staff under their remit are aware of and comply with this policy.

All Staff

All staff are responsible for adhering to the policy and maintaining awareness of the procedures outlined.

Non compliance will lead to initiation of the HSE Disciplinary Procedure.

6 Procedure

6.1 Theatre Attire

All personnel entering the restricted areas of theatres at CUHG, including Cath Lab and GI Unit, should wear blue theatre scrubs, headwear, masks and specific theatre footwear.

6.2 Hand Hygiene

Hand Hygiene should be performed before donning theatre attire.

6.3 Headwear

Headwear should be donned before the scrub suit.
All hair should be completely covered by head cover/cap.

6.4 Scrubs

- Blue Scrubs should be worn in the restricted theatre areas and are available from the Scrubex Machine.
- Scrubs that become visibly soiled must be changed.
- On leaving the restricted theatre areas staff are required to remove blue scrubs, remove footwear, overshoes, face masks and headwear and change into their own clothing.
- It is acknowledged that occasionally theatre staff may need to leave theatre and changing into outdoor clothing may not be feasible. In that instance blue Scrubs may be worn outside of restricted theatre areas but must be covered by an orange or wine coloured scrub. Mask and headwear should be removed.
- White coats should not be worn over scrubs.
- Under no circumstances should any type of scrub suit be worn outside of the hospital building.
- In an emergency situation a health care professional can leave theatre wearing blue scrubs but must change into clean scrubs on return to theatre.
- Home laundering of theatre attire is not permitted.

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- Hand Hygiene should be performed after doffing theatre attire.

6.5 Masks

Masks should be worn to contain the micro-organisms expelled from the mouth and nose. They also used to protect the healthcare worker from potential splashes from body fluids. All facial hair should be completely covered by head cover/cap.

6.6 Footwear

- Footwear worn in theatre should be supportive, provide protection against spills and fallen equipment and have antistatic properties.
- Footwear should be specifically for theatre use only and should be cleaned regularly to remove visible soiling and contaminants.

6.7 Jewellery

- Jewellery should be removed.
- Fingernails should be clean, short and free from nail varnish
- Theatre personnel are not permitted to wear false finger nails, including acrylic or gel coated nails

7 Implementation Plan

Line Managers will circulate this policy to all staff under their remit
The policy will be made available through the Q-Pulse system.

8 Revision and Audit

Revision

This will take place every two years.

Audit

An audit will be undertaken every two years by The Theatre Operations Manager.

9 References/Bibliography

- HSE Dress Code Guidance
- HSE Employee Handbook 2011
- National Hospital Office Draft National Uniform Policy for Clinical Areas. Health Service Executive, February 2006.
- CUH Safety Statement 2009, issue 5.
- Tobacco Free United Charter: Office of the CEO HSE (2009)
- Smoke-Free Campus Policy and Procedure in the Cork University Hospital Group (PPG-CUH-CUH-64), 2014
- Department of Health Uniforms and work wear – An evidence base for developing local policy. NHS 2007
- The Association of Perioperative Practice (2011) Standards and Recommendations for Practice 3rd Edition.
- Jacob, G. (2007) Uniforms and work wear – An evidence base for developing local policy. NHS 2007.
- WHO (2009) Guideline on Safe Site Surgery

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- National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (2008) Clinical Guideline 74- Surgical Site Infection: Prevention and Treatment of Surgical Site Infection London.

10 Appendices

None