



Perioperative – Attire Procedure

1. Guiding Principles

All persons within the restricted and semi restricted areas of the Operating Suite are expected to comply with the dress code and perioperative attire and grooming standard as stated within this procedure.

Perioperative attire is designed to confine microbial shedding from key body areas, thereby protecting the patient and perioperative personnel from potential contamination in accordance with the ACORN Standards and WACHS [Infection Prevention and Control Policy](#).

2. Procedure

2.1 Perioperative attire

Perioperative attire includes:

- two (2) pieces scrub suits (reusable or disposable)
- head covers
- warm up jackets (cuffed at wrists and fastened closed)
- designated fully enclosed foot wear
- visible and secure identification badge.

It is to be used to replace all outer garments and cover all under garments.

The healthcare facility (HCF) is to provide perioperative attire that meets relevant Australian standards in design and manufacture.

Perioperative attire must be worn in the following restricted and semi-restricted areas:

- Operating rooms
- Recovery room
- Endoscopy suite
- Holding bay
- Sterile Supply Department (SSD).

It may be worn:

- in Day Surgery areas to replace uniforms as per local procedures.
- within the HCF outside of the Operating Suite

It is **not** to be worn outside the main building or during transit to and from the HCF.

Warm up jackets with long sleeves which are cuffed at wrists (if worn) must be fastened when working as non-scrubbed personnel.

Perioperative attire must be changed:

- at least daily
- when wet or soiled
- on leaving the perioperative environment.

Perioperative attire must not be stored in personal lockers.

Laundering of perioperative attire at home is not permitted. At the end of the shift, scrub attire must be placed in the designated linen skip for laundering.

2.2 Head and facial hair

- Apply hair covering to ensure all hair is completely covered.
- All hair, sideburns and beards must be completely covered by a Balaclava style hood.
- Head covers such as tieback caps and bandanas must not be worn if they do not fully enclose hair and nape of neck.
- Change head covered at least daily or when soiled.
- Disposable headwear must be worn.
- Reusable head wear is only permitted in the perioperative environment if managed as per the requirements of Australian Standards 4146 and ACORN. Local policies are to be developed to ensure that they are changed daily/launched as per AS4146 and replaced when soiled.

2.3 Headwear worn for religious or cultural reasons

- Headwear worn for religious or cultural reasons is to be changed daily and must be able to be completely covered by perioperative attire. A balaclava style hood is to be worn to completely cover personal headwear.

2.4 Footwear

- Footwear must:
 - comply with occupational safety and health standards and be of a design and material to permit appropriate cleaning and/or disinfection as required
 - be fully enclosed with a non-slip base.
 - be clean, hygienic and well maintained.
- Visitors may wear their own personal footwear in accordance with this procedure.
- The routine use of overshoe covers is not recommended.

2.5 Disposable surgical masks

- Appropriate filtration levels and eye protection are to be worn in designated areas and wherever there is a risk of exposure to blood or body substances.
- All staff must be fit tested to ensure that tight fitting P2/N95 masks will seal properly and help protect staff from exposure to airborne particles such as viruses and bacteria.

- Staff involved with patients requiring airborne transmission-based precautions are to wear P2/N95 masks in accordance with local infection prevention and control policies
- Masks are to be applied securely to completely cover the nose and mouth.
- Masks are to be changed between patients and when soiled and are to be removed by only touching the ties.
- Masks are **not** to be
 - worn around the neck
 - touched while being worn
 - reused for subsequent procedures.

2.6 Eye Protection

- Eye protection includes visors, shields or safety glasses.
- Perform hand hygiene following removal and handling of the mask and eye wear.

2.7 Handkerchiefs

- Handkerchiefs are not to be taken into the operating suite. Disposable tissues must be used.

2.8 Identification badges

- Must always be worn by staff in the department.
- Are to be contained within perioperative attire.

2.9 Fingernails & False Eyelashes

- Fingernails must be kept clean, short and free from artificial nails and nail polish.
- False eyelashes must be secured with further eye protection like eye shields or safety glasses.

2.10 Personal belongings

- Personal bags of any type are not to be brought into the operating room.
- Personal belongings are to be left in lockers provided in the change rooms.

2.11 Jewellery

- Jewellery worn must be in line with [WACHS Dress Code Policy](#).
- All wristwatches, bracelets and rings (apart from a plain wedding band) must be removed.
- Staff must ensure that all necklaces or neck attire are concealed under the perioperative attire or must be removed.
- Staff may wear earrings with a stud or sleeper design only if they can be confined within the Perioperative attire.
- All hand jewellery must be removed when performing a surgical scrub.

2.12 Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- PPE must be provided and be worn in accordance with all workplace occupational safety and health requirements and the specific needs of each activity or surgery being performed. This includes but not limited to:
 - gloves
 - gowns
 - eyewear
 - masks
 - lead aprons
 - thyroid protectors.
- Visitors, spouses/partners, parents/guardians and carers are to wear an impervious gown and disposable hat concealing their street clothes if scrub attire is not feasible.
- Paediatrician, Medical Paediatric Clinical Staff and Midwives attending a caesarean section must wear theatre attire (top, bottom and disposable hat) and PPE in all cases:
 - theatre attire (top and bottom) must be obtained immediately prior to the birth and only from the theatre change room
 - disposable hats are available in the change rooms or in the theatre corridor
 - PPE is available for use in the scrub rooms.
- Paediatric, Medical, Nursing staff and midwives attending a “Code blue or Category 1” Caesarean section must wear an impervious gown and disposable hat over uniforms/street clothes.
- Splattering, splashes or spilling of blood or other body fluids is likely to occur during Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGPs). All staff performing or assisting in surgery where AGPs may occur must wear an impervious gown, gloves, fit tested P2/N95 masks and designated protective eyewear as per local infection prevention and control precautions. Eyewear is either a full-face shield or goggles.

3. Definitions

Perioperative	Process or treatment occurring or performed at or around the time of an operation. It includes Theatre admission, anaesthesia, surgery, and recovery.
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4. Roles and Responsibilities

All persons within the restricted and semi restricted areas of the Operating Suite must wear appropriate perioperative attire.

All Staff are required to work within policies and guidelines to make sure that WACHS is a safe, equitable and positive place to be.

5. Compliance

Failure to comply with this policy may constitute a breach of the WA Health Code of Conduct (Code). The Code is part of the [Integrity Policy Framework](#) issued pursuant

to section 26 of the [Health Services Act 2016](#) and is binding on all WACHS staff which for this purpose includes trainees, students, volunteers, researchers, contractors for service (including all visiting health professionals and agency staff) and persons delivering training or education within WACHS.

WACHS staff are reminded that compliance with all policies is mandatory.

6. Records Management

All WACHS corporate records must be stored in the approved Electronic Documents and Records Management and Records Management System.

[Records Management Policy](#)

All WACHS clinical records must be managed in accordance with the [Health Record Management Policy](#)

7. Evaluation

The content of this procedure is to be included as part of the orientation program for all new staff. Staff are to be reminded to adhere to the correct procedure when non-compliance is observed or reported.

Regular PAT audits and Bare Below the Elbows audits are to be conducted and actions taken to be tabled at local perioperative meetings. They are to be tabled and discussed at site with the local and Regional Infection Prevention and Control Committee meetings, with any issues escalated to the Regional Safety and Quality meetings.

Monitoring of compliance with this document is to be carried out by local Theatre Management Committee, onto Perioperative Nursing Advisory Committee and WACHS Surgical Service Committee Meeting with review of the ACORN PAT audits.

8. Standards

[National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards](#) – 3.01, 3.02, 3.08, 3.10, 3.11, 3.12, 3.14.

[Standards Online](#)

[AS/NZS 4187:2014 Reprocessing of reusable medical devices in health service organizations](#)

International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO)
Draft ISO/TS 16775-3:2017

Note: ISO Standards can be purchased via [https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Standards/ISO-15883-1-2006-612594 SAIG ISO ISO 1405208/](https://infostore.saiglobal.com/en-au/Standards/ISO-15883-1-2006-612594_SAIG_ISO_ISO_1405208/)

9. Legislation

[Work Health and Safety Act 2020](#) (WA)

10. References

1. Australian College of Perioperative Nurses (ACORN) Standards 16th ed. May 2020 – Perioperative Attire pp223 – 234
2. King Edward Memorial Hospital Perioperative Attire Clinical Practice Guideline 2020
3. Royal Perth Bentley Group Theatres: Staff Dress Standards in the Operating Theatres SOP 2021.

11. Related Policy Documents

- WACHS [Infection Prevention and Control Policy](#)
- WACHS [Dress Code Policy](#)

12. Related WA Health System Policies

MP 0134/20 [National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards Accreditation Policy](#).

13. Policy Framework

[Clinical Governance, Safety and Quality](#)

**This document can be made available in alternative formats
on request for a person with a disability**

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