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References:	

Surgical Hand Scrubbing, 88.11.00

Document Type: Policy, Procedure

SUPERSEDES: 06/11, 05/07, 04/02, 12/01, 5/96, 12/92, 3/87

PURPOSE:

To establish guidelines that will effectively reduce bioburden present, suppress further bacterial activity, remove debris and soil from the surgical team member's hands and arms prior to participation in a surgical procedure.

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POLICY:

All members of the surgical team who comprise the "sterile" component of the team shall be required to perform a surgical hand scrub immediately prior to donning sterile gowns and gloves

A preliminary surgical hand scrub will be performed at the beginning of one's shift with an approved agent using water and the agent either with using a counted stroke method or timed scrub of 2-5 minutes.

Subsequent surgical scrub antisepsis will be performed using either the same water and agent timed method or the alcohol surgical hand antiseptic in each OR suite. While both methods are acceptable, they require different methods and procedure, for either to be effective,

General guidelines for all surgical hand scrub preparation:

- All jewelry must be removed from hands and forearms.
- Adjust head covering (bouffant/cap/hood cover) to contain all hair prior to scrubbing.
- Apply fresh mask over the nose and mouth and tie securely. Do not cross ties. Close all gaps on sides of the mask.
- Don appropriate eyewear and adjust for comfort. *PPE should be worn by all staff at risk for splash to the eyes or face. (KMC Policy 31.13.01)*
- Inspect hands to ensure nails are short cuticles are in good conditions and no cuts or skin problems exist. Acrylic/artificial nails are not permitted (KMC Policy 30.12.01/26.13.03).
- Report any skin lesions to the OR Lead RN on duty.
- During any hand wash, avoid splashing surgical attire.
- When scrub is complete, hold hands higher than elbows and away from surgical attire while moving to sterile field or to gown and glove. Do not touch anything with hands/arms. If something does touch them, they are considered contaminated and the scrub should be repeated.

PROCEDURE:

Hand antisepsis/hand scrub with standard scrub brushes or first scrub of shift.

1. Open appropriate scrub brush package and thoroughly moisten hands and forearms.
2. Apply agent on brush if not impregnated
3. Visualize each finger, hand and arm as having four sides. Wash all four sides effectively. Start at nails, finger tips, each side of digit, including connecting web spaces. Wash from clean to dirty. Use nail cleaner to remove debris from subungual areas.
4. Scrub each side of the arm.
5. Next scrub the palm and back of hand, including the elbow antecubital space to 2 inches about the elbow.
6. Repeat this process for opposite fingers, hand, and arm.
7. When hand scrub is completed discard the scrub brush and rinse the fingers, hand and arms thoroughly under running water taking care to direct the flow of water from finger tips to elbows.
8. When completed, if proceeding into OR, hold arms and hands above waist and away from body/scrubs to avoid contamination prior to gloving and gowning. Do not allow hands and/or arms to touch anything prior to donning gown and gloves.
    a. Once in the OR a sterile towel will be used to dry one hand/arms thoroughly.
    b. Dry one hand at a time with half of the towel while leaning slightly forward to assure the towel does not touch anything.
    c. Blot the wrist and arm with same half. Use other half to dry other hand and arm sequentially. Drop towel away from you and the sterile field. This towel is now considered contaminated.
9. If this is the first scrub of the shift, dry hands and continue with day.
   Hand scrub with alcohol based surgical scrub agent:
10. At the beginning of the shift, always perform a timed hand scrub to reduce bio-burden as much as possible.
11. In the presence of visible soil, wash hands, and dry forearms with soap and running water.
12. Clean the subungual areas of both hands under running water using a nail cleaner.
13. Dry hands thoroughly.
14. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for any alcohol based agent. Instructions vary, as well as methods to dry hands/arms thoroughly.
15. Surgical hand scrub agents are available inside each OR suite and should be used at that location.
16. Dispense the manufacturer recommended amount of surgical hand rub product.
17. Apply the product to the hands and forearms following the manufacturer's written directions. Rub thoroughly until dry.
18. Gowning and gloving immediately follows use of surgical hand scrub.

Attachments:

No Attachments

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