



Origination: 05/1990
Last Approved: 09/2014
Last Revised: 09/2014
Next Review: 08/2017
Owner: Chase Walters: Director,
Education
Policy Area: Operating Room
References:

Traffic Patterns in the Surgical Suite, 30.13.02

Document Type: Policy, Guideline

SUPERSEDES: 8/08, 2/02, 5/96, 12/92, 5/90

POLICY:

To provide guidance for traffic patterns in the Operating Room department and adjacent areas. Traffic control patterns suggest movement into and out of the surgical suite as well as movement within the suite. Clearly define and enforced traffic control practices protect personnel, patients, supplies and equipment from potential sources of cross-contamination, safeguard the privacy of patients, and provide security.

GUIDELINE:

The Operating Room department is divided into to three designated areas that are defined by physical activities in each area. Environmental and dress controls increase as progression is made from unrestricted to restricted areas.

DEFINITIONS:

- **Unrestricted Area:** This includes corridors and rooms connected to public areas on one side and often restricted areas on the other, including but not limited to, employee locker room or lounge and desk area. Street clothes are permitted in this area.
- **Semi-Restricted Area:** This area describes most of the peripheral support areas of the surgical suites. Corridors, clean core, substerile rooms, anesthesia work room, equipment storage and PACU are included in this category. Traffic is limited to authorized personnel and patients only. Surgical attire with head covering is required. NOTE: Head coverings are not required in PACU.
- **Restricted Area:** This includes the OR suites when sterile supplies are open. Scrub attire, head and facial hair covering, and masks will be worn in these areas. Compliance with Dress Code Policy is required in these areas.

GUIDELINES:

- Patients entering the Operating Room will have clean linens and gowns and their head should be covered with a disposable bouffant.

- Doors to all operating room suites should remain closed once sterile supplies are open through the completion of any surgical procedure. This maintains proper air exchanges in each suite, optimizing the infection control principles important to each procedure.
- Factors within the suite that increase air turbulence, such as movement, number of people in the room, talking, should be minimized during this time.
- Life threatening patient emergencies or fire and safety hazards may necessitate modification of traffic control practices. Appropriate accommodations are at the discretion of the staff in the room to best care for the patient.
- Movement of clean and sterile supplies/equipment should be separated as much as possible from soiled equipment/waste by space, time or traffic patterns. Clean and sterile supplies will be transported to the OR using the clean elevator from the Sterile Processing Department. They may be transported in a covered or open cart or hand carried.
- Materials are removed from external shipping containers/boxes/cartons or uncovered in an unrestricted area before transfer to an OR area. Shipping containers, etc. are subject to dust, insects, and the like which can transfer to this restricted area. Cardboard boxes are not permitted in semi-restricted or restricted areas.
- If equipment is brought in from outside, it will be wiped down with an approved disinfectant prior to moving into the semi-restricted area. It is the responsibility of the person using that equipment to do so.
- Soiled supplies, instruments, equipment needing reprocessing, trash, and soiled linen are contained in the OR suite are immediately adjacent to the suite prior to transport. All items are transported through the semi-restricted corridor to the appropriate receiving location. Covering of these items is as important during transport as clean or sterile items. All items are taken to the dirty utility area. Linen and waste is placed in corresponding receptacles, while instruments and equipment needing reprocessing are transported up the soiled utility elevator in a covered and closed cart to the decontamination area in Sterile Processing.

Attachments:

No Attachments