

# Guideline at a Glance: Surgical Attire

The AORN Guideline at a Glance is a key component of the *Guideline Essentials*, a suite of online implementation tools designed to help the perioperative team translate AORN's evidence-based guidelines into practice. Each Guideline at a Glance highlights important elements of the full guideline and includes images, implementation steps, and the rationale for why these steps are important to promote safety and optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. Facilities can provide team access to the entire set of *Guideline Essentials* through a subscription to the multiuser, online edition (eSubscription) of the *AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice*. Individuals can obtain the same access through a subscription to the AORN Guideline eBook Mobile App. For more information about the complete set of implementation tools included in the *Guideline Essentials*, visit <https://www.aorn.org/guidelines/purchase-guidelines/guideline-essentials>.



## DONNING SURGICAL ATTIRE

- Put on clean attire daily in a designated dressing area. Avoid having attire touch the floor or other surfaces as much as possible.
- Tuck in your shirt or make sure it fits tightly.
- If you wear a scrub dress, wear it over scrub pants or leggings.
- If you wear personal clothing, such as a t-shirt, make sure it is covered completely by the scrub attire or has been laundered in a health care–accredited facility.
- Change into street clothes if you go outside, and don clean attire when you come back in.

★ *Wearing clean surgical attire can reduce the number of microorganisms in the environment and may reduce the patient's risk of developing a surgical site infection.*



## COVER APPAREL

- You can wear a lab coat or cover apparel as long as it is clean and laundered daily in a health care–accredited facility or is designed and worn for a single use.

★ *Cover apparel can be contaminated with pathogenic microorganisms if it is not laundered frequently or discarded after use.*

[http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0001-2092\(16\)30610-X](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0001-2092(16)30610-X)

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### JEWELRY

- Contain or confine all of your jewelry.

★ *Wearing jewelry has been found to increase bacterial counts on skin.*



### COVERING ARMS

- Cover your arms with a long-sleeved scrub top or jacket when in the restricted area.
- Cover your arms while performing patient skin antisepsis (prepping).
- Cover your arms while preparing and packaging items in the clean assembly area of sterile processing.
- Make sure that your jacket or long-sleeved top fits tightly to your arms and torso.
- If you wear a jacket, button or snap it closed.

★ *Wearing long-sleeved attire helps contain skin squames shed from bare arms.*



### SHOES

- Wear clean shoes that are only used for work in the OR.
- Wear shoes that have closed toes and backs.
- If you may be exposed to gross contamination from blood or body fluids, cover your shoes with single-use shoe covers or boots.
- Remove the covers or boots immediately after use and perform hand hygiene.

★ *Wearing shoes dedicated for use in the OR may help reduce contamination of the perioperative environment. Shoes must meet OSHA and facility safety requirements.*



### HEAD COVERING

- Completely cover your hair, scalp, sideburns, and the nape of your neck with a hood or head covering.
- Do not take your head covering off unless you leave the facility for the day or travel between buildings outside.
- Remove your head covering at the end of your shift or when contaminated, and discard it in the designated receptacle.

★ *Uncovered hair and skin can harbor bacteria that can be dispersed into the environment.*

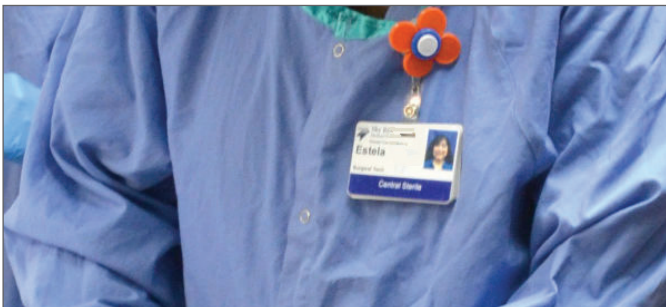




### MASKS AND EYE PROTECTION

- Wear a surgical mask and protect your eyes.
- Cover your nose and mouth and tie your mask so that it does not vent at the sides.
- Change your mask before each new procedure.
- Do not wear your mask hanging around your neck.
- Remove and discard your mask by handling the ties only.
- Clean your eye protection after each use.

★ *Surgical masks and eye protection help protect personnel from splashed blood, body fluids, or other potentially infectious materials. Masks also help protect the patient from microbial contamination from the health care worker.*



### IDENTIFICATION

- Secure your badge in a visible spot on the scrub attire top or jacket.
- Do not wear a lanyard to hold your badge.

★ *Visible identification helps support security measures and assists in identifying authorized personnel. Lanyards may become contaminated with bacteria and microorganisms.*



### STETHOSCOPES

- Do not wear a stethoscope around your neck.
- Do not cover your stethoscope with a fabric tubing cover.
- Clean your stethoscope after you use it on a patient.

★ *Stethoscopes that are not cleaned could transmit microbes among patients or between patients and health care workers.*



### PERSONAL ITEMS

- Clean your briefcase, backpack, or any other personal item before bringing it into the restricted or semi-restricted area.
- Clean your cell phones or tablets before and after you use them in the perioperative setting.
- Do not set these items on the floor.

★ *Unclean items brought into the OR can be highly contaminated with microorganisms and may harbor dust, pathogens, and bacteria.*

### SOILED ATTIRE

- Change your attire immediately if it is penetrated by blood or body fluids.
- Take a shower if there is extensive contamination of your body.
- Place your attire in the designated container after you remove it.
- Do not store worn surgical attire in your locker.

★ *Changing soiled attire and placing it in designated containers may reduce the potential for contamination and protect personnel from exposure to potentially pathogenic microorganisms.*



### SURGICAL ATTIRE LAUNDERING

- Do not home launder your surgical attire.

★ *Soiled attire transported to the home may present a risk of carrying pathogenic organisms into the home or community.*

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