



Pennsylvania Hospital  
& Surgery Center

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL**

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Effective: 0808

**SUBJECT: HOSPITAL PROVIDED SCRUBS**

**POLICY NUMBER: HR20**

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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

For purposes of this policy, Pennsylvania Hospital includes all off campus licensed facilities, including but not limited to the Surgery Center of Pennsylvania Hospital.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPALS:**

Hospital-provided and laundered scrubs are light blue. Personnel authorized to wear these scrubs are listed below and are permitted to wear hospital-provided scrubs to and from the work place or may opt to change upon arrival and departure. Additional areas in the institution authorizing scrub uniforms are expected to wear colors that will distinguish them from personnel wearing the light blue colored scrubs.

The use of hospital provided and laundered scrub uniforms is based on the following rationale supported by the Center for Disease Control to:

- Reduce the bioburden in "clean" or "restricted" areas of the hospital
- Provide changes of hospital laundered clothing to those employees at greatest risk of blood and body fluid contamination in their daily work, while preventing the transport of contaminated items into the community.

## **PROCEDURE**

Hospital laundered scrubs will be provided for the following areas:

- Anesthesia
- Birthing Suite
- Cardiac Cath lab
- Central Processing (CPD) and Distribution (SPD)
- Clinical Laboratory – limited to autopsy service and surgical gross lab
- Electrophysiology – scrubs should be worn only during procedures
- Labor and Delivery
- Operating Room
- Pharmacy Personnel
- Post Anesthesia Care Units
- Radiology – Interventional procedure and OR personnel only
- Residents and Fellows on-call
- Short Procedure Unit/Ambulatory Surgical Center
- Surgical and Obstetrical Residents

Personnel authorized to wear hospital-laundered scrubs will wear the light blue scrub. Service-specific scrubs may be worn but will not be laundered by the hospital. Services will be represented by color. Color is to be determined by the service team.

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Scrub uniforms, whether hospital-provided or service-specific, will consist of a matching top and bottom. Scrub dresses may be worn provided legs are covered by pantyhose.

Additional attire in any Operating Room, Labor and Delivery and any Invasive Procedure Units must adhere to the following guidelines:

- Warm-up jackets may be worn provided they are clean and lint-free;
- Due to their high lint content, fleece jackets, sweatshirts and sweaters may NOT be worn in any Operating Room, Labor and Delivery or Invasive Procedure Suites. High-lint materials harbor bacteria. As personnel move around, the friction frees bacteria with subsequent shedding into the environment;
- Fleece jackets may be worn over scrubs when traveling to and from any OR, Labor and Delivery or any Invasive Procedure Suites; and,
- Cotton-blend, lint-free shirts may be worn under scrub attire.

Scrubs do not provide protection from blood or body fluids. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gortex gown) must be worn over scrubs when splashes to skin or clothing are anticipated.

Hospital-provided scrubs, which are visibly soiled or wet, must be changed. If the scrub attire becomes contaminated with blood or body fluids, a clean pair of scrubs will be provided to the employee. If the garment is soiled, it should be removed in such a way so as to avoid exposure to the skin. The employee is to contact his/her supervisor to obtain additional scrubs. Each employee is allowed to have his/her weekly allotment of scrubs.

**REFERENCES:**

Belkin, N.L. Use of Scrubs and Related Apparel in Health Care Facilities, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.; American Journal Infection Control 1997; 25:401-4.

Belkin, N.L. Home Laundering of Soiled Surgical Scrubs: Surgical Site Infections and the Home Environment, Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc.; Practice Forum, 2/01, 29:1.

/s/Kathleen Kinslow  
 Kathleen Kinslow, CRNA, EdD, MBA  
 Executive Director

09/08/08  
 Date

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