

Operational Directives	WRHA Infection Prevention & Control Program	
	Dress Code – Medical Device Reprocessing Area (MDRA)	Page 1 of 6
	Approval Signature:	Supersedes: New
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1. PURPOSE AND INTENT:

- 1.1 To ensure Staff appearance is neat, professional and reflective of the professional image of WRHA Facilities.
- 1.2 To describe a standard for attire/apparel required for all persons entering the Medical Device Reprocessing Area and participating in Medical Device Reprocessing related activities.
- 1.3 To ensure staff dress is not detrimental to patient, resident, client (PRC) care, adheres to safety and health regulations, and is appropriate for the nature of the work performed.

2. PRACTICE OUTCOME:

- 2.1 To ensure compliance with national guidelines for attire in MDRA's.
- 2.2 To promote the safety and quality care of PRCs by adhering to the dress code specified in this Operational Directive (OD).
- 2.3 This OD will be interpreted and applied in a manner that respects cultural diversity and promotes inclusiveness.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 Dress Code attire minimizes patient exposure to microorganisms from the skin, mucous membranes and/or hair of staff. PPE may form part of a Dress Code and is worn to prevent contamination.

4. DEFINITIONS:

- 4.1 Cover-Up (Cover Gown, Warm-Up Jacket) – a garment that covers clothing but does not provide any significant protection against liquids.
- 4.2 Decontam – Area where the removal of microorganisms, by use of physical or chemical means, in order to leave an item safe for further handling occurs.

- 4.3 Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) Area (MDRA) – functional area that reprocesses reusable medical devices (not necessarily centralized). In smaller health care settings, such as clinics or offices in the community, this refers to any segregated area where reprocessing of reusable medical devices takes place away from patients.
- 4.4 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) – One element in the Hierarchy of Controls. Personal Protective Equipment consists of gowns, gloves, masks, facial protection (i.e., masks and eye protection, face shields or masks with visor attachment) or respirators that can be used by staff to provide a barrier that will prevent potential exposure to infectious microorganisms.
- 4.5 Prep and Pack – Area of the MDRD where clean items are staged for distribution or further processing (i.e. sterilization).
- 4.6 Staff – All persons employed by WRHA Facilities as well as members of the medical staff, volunteers, board members, students, and others associated through contracts.
- 4.7 Sterile Storage - Designated area within Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) or sterile procedures area (i.e. operating room) used for storage of sterile supplies.
- 4.8 Undershirt – a piece of clothing that is worn next to skin in order to keep warm.

5.0 DIRECTIVES:

- 5.1 A dress code notice shall be posted at each entrance to the MDRA.
- 5.2 The health care setting shall organize training in the proper selection, use, [donning](#) and [doffing](#) of PPE. When personnel work in both clean and contaminated areas, they shall be taught the appropriate donning and doffing of PPE when moving from dirty to clean areas.
- 5.3 All MDR staff shall wear attire based on a Point-of-Care Risk Assessment (PCRA) and adhere to the dress code and PPE policies of the health care setting.
 - 5.3.1 Environmental Services personnel shall wear attire and PPE in all MDRA's in accordance with this directive.
 - 5.3.2 All visitors, such as facility and contracted maintenance or material management personnel shall wear either scrub attire or disposable one-piece coveralls or bunny suits with head covering provided by the site, and adhere to the Dress Code/PPE policy of the health care setting.
- 5.4 Isolation gowns, uniforms, and so on, are not for personal use nor should they be removed from the workplace.

5.4.1 Surgical gowns and isolation gowns shall be used only within Decontam and PRC care and clinical treatment areas. They shall not be used in place of scrub attire or as cover gowns.

5.5 MDRA staff working in other clinical areas must adhere to the appropriate Dress Code/PPE policy for that specific area.

6. COMPONENTS:

6.1 All personnel who perform MDR activities anywhere in the health care setting shall don freshly laundered scrub attire upon entry to the MDRA.

6.1.1 Scrub attire shall be clean, in good repair, and appropriate for the tasks being performed.

6.1.2 Scrub attire shall be changed daily and whenever it becomes visibly soiled, contaminated or wet.

6.1.3 Remove personal clothing that is not completely covered by scrubs and cover gown.

6.2 The contracted or in-house laundry shall launder reusable garments, including PPE.

6.2.1 Reusable scrub attire, including warm-up jackets and hats, shall be laundered by the same laundry facilities used by the health care setting for other surgical textiles.

6.3 Personnel shall confine all hair, including facial and body hair, by a clean bouffant or hood style hair covering, beard covering and undershirt where necessary, in all MDRA's at all times, including Decontam and Endoscope Reprocessing areas.

6.3.1 Disposable head/hair coverings shall be worn over any personal reusable, religious or cultural head attire.

6.3.2 Hair coverings shall be changed when leaving the decontamination area, at least daily and more frequently if soiled.

6.4 MDRA personnel shall not wear their uniform and cover-up outside the health care setting.

6.4.1 In the event a uniform and cover-up are worn outside the health care setting, the uniform and cover-up shall be removed and a new uniform and cover-up shall be donned before re-entering the MDRA.

- 6.5 Personnel shall remove all exposed jewelry and remove or cover all exposed piercings. Examples include rings, watches, bracelets, necklaces, earrings and other facial/body piercings.
- 6.6 Personnel should not use personal electronic devices such as cell phones, smart watches and music players.
 - 6.6.1 The wearing of personal music devices where headphones/ear plugs are used while in the course of work functions are not permitted per WRHA Dress Code Policy 20.10.020.
- 6.7 Personnel shall maintain natural, clean, and healthy nails with tips trimmed to less than 0.6 cm (1/4 in) long.
 - 6.7.1 Personnel shall not wear artificial nails, enhancers, or extenders or nail polish.
- 6.8 Personnel shall not wear false eyelashes, enhancers, or extensions. Enhancers may include mascara when applied heavily.
- 6.9 Identification badges shall be worn at all times when on duty and should be clearly visible as per the Photo Identification (ID) Policy 65.40.010.
 - 6.9.1 If a quick release safety lanyard or retractable reel is worn to display photo identification (ID), it must be able to be effectively cleaned and disinfected daily along with the photo ID card itself. Do not secure the retractable reel at waist level as this can increase risk of contamination.
- 6.10 Personnel shall wear dedicated footwear (exclusively allocated to or intended for use only in the MDRA) that are enclosed front and back, clean, and maintained, keep feet dry, and are sufficiently durable to prevent injury if a device drops on the foot.
 - 6.10.1 Footwear bottoms shall be non-skid.
- 6.11 PPE worn when performing any reprocessing task shall be appropriate to the task(s) being performed.
 - 6.11.1 Hand hygiene shall be performed appropriately during [donning](#) and [doffing](#) of PPE.
- 6.12 When the integrity of gloves, liquid/chemical-resistant garments, face shields, or protective eyewear is compromised, they shall be replaced immediately.

- 6.13 Personnel shall wear elbow length, heatproof mitts when removing carts from the steam sterilizer(s).
 - 6.13.1 Heatproof mitts shall be laundered or cleaned and disinfected at least weekly.
 - 6.13.2 Hand Hygiene shall be performed before and after donning of heatproof mitts.
- 6.14 **Decontam specific attire shall comprise, at minimum:**
 - 6.14.1 Fresh scrub attire, changed daily or more often if wet or soiled.
 - 6.14.2 A level 4 impervious gown with appropriate barrier properties for the job function and the task at hand.
 - 6.14.3 Powder free disposable nitrile gloves with a minimum 12 in cuff and resistant to chemicals used in the reprocessing of medical devices.
 - 6.14.4 Dedicated shoes, enclosed front and back with non-skid soles.
 - 6.14.5 An impervious facemask.
 - 6.14.6 An impervious face shield or eye protection.
 - 6.14.7 A hair covering.
 - 6.14.8 Impervious shoe covers may be worn.
- 6.15 Before leaving the decontamination area, personnel shall remove all PPE, taking care not to contaminate their clothing or their skin, and shall perform hand hygiene.
- 6.16 Fresh, clean PPE shall be applied upon re-entry to the Decontam area.
- 6.17 **Prep and pack attire shall comprise, at minimum:**
 - 6.17.1 Fresh scrub attire, changed daily or more often if wet or soiled.
 - 6.17.2 Dedicated shoes, enclosed front and back with non-skid soles.
 - 6.17.3 A clean bouffant or hood style hair covering, beard covering and undershirt where necessary.
- 6.18 **Sterile storage and handling attire shall comprise, at minimum:**

- 6.18.1 Fresh scrub attire, changed daily or more often if wet or soiled.
- 6.18.2 Dedicated shoes, enclosed front and back with non-skid soles.
- 6.18.3 A clean bouffant or hood style hair covering, beard covering and undershirt where necessary.
- 6.18.4 Additional PPE as required by sterilizer manufacturer i.e., protective eye wear and nitrile gloves when handling chemicals for low-temperature sterilization.

7. REFERENCES:

- 7.1 Alberta Health Services SOP [Dress Code and Prohibited Activities](#) MDR.3.5
- 7.2 Canadian Standards Association – Canadian Medical Device Reprocessing in all Health Care Settings CSA Z314:23
- 7.3 Nova Scotia MDR Policy and Procedure [Dress Code and Personal Protective Equipment](#) NSHA / IWK MDR-GA-001
- 7.4 The ORNAC Standards, Guidelines and Position Statements for Perioperative Registered Nurses, 2023
- 7.5 WRHA EIPT: [Dress Code and General Conduct in the Perioperative Environment](#)
- 7.6 WRHA Operational Directive: [Infection Prevention and Control for Construction, Renovation and Maintenance](#)
- 7.7 WRHA Policy 20.10.020 Dress Code
<https://policies.wrha.mb.ca/policy/142/standards-of-conduct/2989/20-10-020-dress-code.pdf>
- 7.8 WRHA Policy 65.40.010 [Photo Identification](#)
- 7.9 WRHA PPE Resources [Personal Protective Equipment Resources - WRHA Professionals](#)

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