
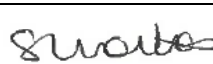



PPE TO BE WORN WHEN CLEANING FLEXIBLE ENDOSCOPES GUIDELINE	
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Update to: Purpose, Guideline, References	

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1.0 Purpose

To outline the protective attire to be worn when processing endoscopes in order to prevent exposure to potentially infectious materials. The standard precautions and work practices are required to minimize the risk of infection to both service users and healthcare workers. They include but are not limited to; good hygiene practices, particularly hand-washing, the use of PPE and the appropriate handling and disposal of waste. PPE involves use of protective barriers such as gloves, gowns, masks and protective eyewear.

2.0 Responsibility

It is the responsibility of each member of staff cleaning flexible endoscopes to adhere to this procedure or guideline.


3.0 Guideline

All staff must wear appropriate personal protective equipment when cleaning flexible endoscopes.

Endoscope Washroom Attire

3.0.1 Dress Code:

- All personnel working in the Endoscope reprocessing (decontamination) unit should wear freshly laundered low linting attire. (Low linting attire minimizes bacterial shedding.
- Freshly laundered attire should be changed daily or whenever it becomes visibly soiled or wet;
- Staff who are involved in the maintenance of decontamination equipment should be required to wear the same scrub suits as other personnel working in the department;
- On leaving the decontamination unit, staff should change into their normal day wear;
- After use, the attire should be discarded appropriately in a designated post, use container / bag;
- Hands should be decontaminated before leaving the changing area;
- Work attire should never be worn outside the decontamination unit.

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Note: For Endoscopy Clean Room Attire, same as above but healthcare workers working on the clean side use gloves which are supplied on the clean side. There is no cross over allowed.

3.0.2 *Head / Hair Cover*

- The first item to be donned should be a clean, single-use, low lint surgical hat or hood that confines all hair. The hat or hood should be designed so that microbial dispersal is minimized. All hair should be confined as well as covered. After use, headgear should be discarded in the appropriate healthcare waste stream, Stud earrings may be worn and should be totally confined within the head cover. **Note:** Jewellery should not be worn in the decontamination area unless they are stud earrings and a plain wedding band. False eyelashes are not permitted to be worn by staff in the decontamination room.


3.0.3 *Gloves*

- Healthcare workers should decontaminate their hands before and after removing gloves, hand washing or using alcohol gel (Alcohol gel should not be used on visibly soiled hands or with patients with C-Diff infection). Wearing gloves should not replace hand washing, as gloves may have defects that are not immediately obvious, or may become damaged during use.
- Gloves should be used for handling contaminated flexible endoscopes, waste and when performing environmental cleaning activities, selected and worn according to the task and replaced if torn or perforated.
- When removing gloves the outer surface of the gloves should not come into contact with skin, avoid letting the gloves snap, as this may cause contaminants to splash into eyes, mouth or skin or other personnel in the area.
- After use, gloves should be discarded in the appropriate healthcare waste stream. It is important to remove used gloves and decontaminate hands before touching clean surfaces such as worktops, phones etc.

Note: False nails, shellac or any nail varnish are not permitted.

3.0.4 *Footwear*

- Healthcare workers should wear non-slip enclosed footwear that can protect them from injury or contact with sharp objects (i.e. if sharps are dropped

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accidentally). Footwear should be capable of using regularly cleaned and disinfected. Footwear should be dedicated to the area in which healthcare workers are designated.

4.0 Procedure

- Staff should cover wounds and abrasions with a waterproof dressing.
- Each member of staff must don gown, gloves and protective eye wear prior to cleaning a flexible endoscope post procedure.

5.0 References

HSE Standards and Recommended Practices for Operational Management of Endoscope Decontamination Facilities June 2019 V.1 (QPSD-D-082-1)

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