



NMMC

Main Unit Surgery

Title: Traffic Pattern in the Surgery Department

Rationale: To decrease the risk of infection to surgical patients

Policy: Surgery is designed to facilitate movement of patients and personnel through defined areas within the surgical suite. Established environmental and dress controls should be practiced by anyone entering restricted areas. Appropriate signs should clearly indicate the traffic and dress controls.

Procedure:

A. The Surgery Department is divided into three designated areas that are defined by physical activities in each area.

1. The Unrestricted Area:

This area includes a central control point (Front Desk), which is established to monitor the entrance of patients, personnel, and materials. It will also serve as an area of communication between personnel within the surgical suite and outside facility departments. Street clothes are permitted in this area. The unrestricted area includes:

- a. Outer corridors
- b. Offices
- c. Locker rooms
- d. Lounges

2. The Semi-Restricted Area:

This area includes most peripheral support areas of the surgery suite. Traffic is limited to authorized personnel and patients in this area. Scrub attire and head coverings are required in this area. The Semi-Restricted Area includes:

- a. Storage areas for clean and sterile supplies
- b. Work areas for storage and processing of instruments
- c. Corridors leading to the restricted areas of the surgery suite

- d. Scrub sink areas
- e. Sterile core

3. The Restricted Area:

This is the area where surgical procedures are performed or sterile supplies are unwrapped and a sterile field is established. Scrub attire and head coverings are required in this area. Masks are required when sterile supplies are open or in the presence of persons who are performing or have completed a surgical hand scrub. The Restricted Area includes:

- a. Operating Rooms
 - b. Scrub sink areas/sterile core (when surgical hand scrubs are being performed)
- B. Patients entering the surgical suite should have clean linens and gowns and have their hair covered.
- C. Factors producing air turbulence, such as movement or the number of people talking, should be minimized in the OR during surgery.
- D. Doors to the operating rooms should be closed except during necessary movement of personnel and equipment.
- E. Soiled supplies, instruments, equipment for reprocessing, and trash should be contained in a closed impervious system or an enclosed cart.
- F. The movement of clean and sterile supplies and equipment should be separated as possible from soiled equipment and waste by space, time or traffic patterns.
- G. Supplies transported to the Surgery Department from outside, should be brought on closed or covered carts. Materials should be removed from external shipping cartons or uncovered in the unrestricted area before transfer into OR storage areas.
- H. Life-threatening patient emergencies or fire and safety hazards may necessitate modification in traffic control practices.

Distributed To: Infection Control

Issued Date: Circa 1990

Reviewed Date: July 2000
July 2003
October 2004
March 2006
July 2008
November 2009
January 2011
August 2012
August 2014
May 2017

Revised Date: December 2001
July 2008
May 2019