

## Procedure for the wearing of a uniform in the Perioperative Care Directorate

<b>Reference No:</b>	12	<b>Version No:</b>	9	<b>Previous Trust / LHB Ref No:</b>	
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<b>Documents to read alongside this Policy , Procedure etc (delete as necessary)</b>	'All Wales NHS Dress Code: Free to Lead, Free to Care'
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<b>Author/Reviewee:</b>	Perioperative Care Directorate governance forum
<b>Executive Lead:</b>	Ceri Chinn – lead Nurse
<b>Group Consulted Via/ Committee:</b>	Perioperative Care Directorate governance forum and Quality and Safety forum
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### Disclaimer

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<b>Version Number</b>	<b>Date of Review Approved</b>	<b>Date Published</b>	<b>Summary of Amendments</b>
1	April 2004	April 2004	New procedure
2	June 2007	June 2007	Rolled over
3	Jan 2010	Jan 2010	Reviewed
4	June 2013	June 2013	Section (i) added
5	Oct 2013	Oct 2013	Sections (c) and (f) amended
6	July 2015	August 2105	Sections (c), (f), (i) and (k) amended
7	July 2016	August 2016	Section (c) updated to reflect a Hijab. Section (d) updated to reflect cleaning of shoes when soiled. Section (f) to confirm plain METAL studs
8	May 2019	August 2019	Title changed to reflect area of distribution. Theatre porter / Operating department orderly section added
9	August 2019	September 2019	Theatre blues changed to theatre suits

## **INTRODUCTION**

All staff are required to follow the principles of the 'All Wales NHS Dress Code: Free to Lead, Free to Care'. This procedure provides further instruction for those that work in the Operating theatre department. It is important that Theatres uniform and/or workplace clothing policy addresses key Health and Safety recommendations which include:

- adherence to infection prevention and control protocols especially in relation to hand washing techniques
- identification of a corporate image for the individual
- provision of a professional image to promote public confidence
- provides the wearer with mobility and comfort
- that the clothing/uniform is resilient to withstand rigorous laundering
- consideration of staff safety in relation to situations involving violence and aggression

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>RATIONALE</b>
<b>(a)</b>	All staff will wear the correct uniform provided by the UHB for the duties they will undertake in their respective working areas	To maintain a professional appearance.
<b>(b)</b>	<p>A clean uniform must be worn every day.</p> <p>Staff laundering their own uniform/scrubs/hats must wash them at the highest temperature the garment will allow, which should be a minimum of 60<sup>0</sup>C.</p> <p>Uniform/theatre suits must be changed if visibly soiled as soon as reasonably practicable.</p>	This is in line with UHB infection control policy.

<p><b>(c)</b></p>	<p>All staff entering the anaesthetic room, prep-room or theatre <b>MUST</b> wear a clean theatre hat, inside which all hair will be concealed.</p> <p>All other staff will wear their hair neatly; medium length/long hair must be tied up off the shoulder and secured.</p> <p>If the staff member requests to wear a Hijab then a disposable theatre hat must be worn on top of it</p> <p>Face masks / face shields to be worn for all invasive cases by all staff in the operating theatre. Masks <b>MUST</b> be worn during prosthetic implant operation</p> <p>FFP3 masks must be worn in the instance of suspected/confirmed MDR-TB/pulmonary TB/Flu.</p>	<p>This will contain hair and prevent it becoming an unnecessary source of infection.</p> <p>This will present a professional image in the workplace and avoids repeated re-adjustment.</p> <p>This is in line with UHB infection control policy.</p> <p>To reduce the risk for individuals from potential splashes of body fluids and blood and to contain the micro-organisms expelled from the mouth and nose.</p>
<p><b>(d)</b></p>	<p>Footwear must be;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sensible e.g. not having more than a 1” heel, not open toed</li> <li>• Have a non-slip sole and have a solid upper (no holes).</li> <li>• secure e.g. clogs must have heel strap</li> <li>• non-pervious and easily cleanable</li> <li>• clean on donning or when they have become soiled</li> <li>• Restricted for theatre use.</li> </ul>	<p>To prevent any accidents occurring and cross-infection and to comply with the directorate Health and Safety policy</p>

<p><b>(e)</b></p>	<p>A "bare below the elbows" (DoH Guidance 2007) approach to be adopted <u>at all times</u> by all clinical care providers whilst providing/ undertaking clinical care procedures. This includes any interaction involving a patient.</p> <p>No Single use only gowns / warming jackets with long sleeves to be worn in the clinical area e.g. post anaesthetic care area.</p> <p>That is short sleeves (or sleeves rolled up) to be worn by all clinical care providers whilst providing / undertaking clinical care procedures.</p>	<p>To allow adequate hand decontamination to occur.</p>
<p><b>(f)</b></p>	<p>Clinical staff who wear a uniform/theatre suits may only wear one plain metal wedding band / kara (bracelet) <b>and one pair of plain Metal stud earrings</b> and where appropriate to their clinical practice a fob watch. No wrist watches are to be worn under any circumstances in the clinical environment.</p> <p>Items must not be worn around the neck this includes ID badges which must be clipped to the uniform/theatre blues.</p> <p>Non clinical staff who do not have direct patient contact must wear their uniform / theatre suits in accordance with the All Wales NHS Dress Code</p>	<p>To prevent any hazards to patients.</p> <p>Item/s hanging from the neck e.g. a Necklace/lanyard, could potentially be dangerous when working with a confused or violent patient or when working with machinery. They also pose a risk to the maintenance of the sterile field.</p> <p>To maintain professional appearance</p>
<p><b>(g)</b></p>	<p>Visible body piercing must not be worn, these include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nose</li> <li>• Tongue</li> <li>• Eyebrow</li> <li>• Lip</li> <li>• Pinna/tragus</li> </ul>	<p>To comply with the UHBs policy "Guidance for Standards of Appearance for Nurses, Midwives and Health Visitors"</p>

<b>(h)</b>	Staff with beards must keep the beard neatly trimmed.	This will contain hair and prevent it becoming an unnecessary source of infection.
<b>(i)</b>	False nails and/or nail varnish must not be worn by any staff member in a clinical area/ wearing uniform/theatre suits. All must be removed before commencement of clinical work. Senior Clinical staff will insist on the removal of the above before staff commence their shift. Fingernails must be kept short and clean (as per UHB Hand Decontamination Procedure)	To prevent nails looking unsightly, chipping and being a source of infection. To maintain the corporate/professional image of the service. To prevent glove perforation and injury to patients. Short nails are easier to keep clean in accordance with the UHB Hand Hygiene Policy.
<b>(j)</b>	Hats, masks and footwear must not be worn outside the department.  Masks must be disposed of regularly and must not be worn around the neck outside of the operating theatre.  Gloves must only be worn carrying out clinical procedures, and disposed of in the appropriate bag, and not worn in corridors. Hands must be washed on removal of the gloves.	These are not uniform but personal protective equipment.  To ensure the mask is only worn when required.  To ensure they are worn only when required and to facilitate good hand washing.

<p><b>(k)</b></p>	<p>Theatre suits are <b>only</b> to be worn in the theatre suite.</p> <p>Staff must change out of theatre suits when visiting other areas of the hospital; unless they are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taking/collecting a patient back to the ward and relevant outlying areas.</li> <li>• Pre/post - operative visiting a patient/relative on the ward.</li> <li>• Undertaking official theatre related business such as transferring items between department's e.g. Main theatres to SSSU, TSC to Obstetrics.</li> <li>• Undertake lists in other areas EVAR/TVAR, MRI etc</li> <li>• In the event of an emergency.</li> </ul> <p>Theatre suits worn outside the department must be clean.</p> <p>Theatre suits <b>must not</b> be worn to the concourse, canteen or other public reception areas within the organisation.</p> <p>Staff should not be seen smoking in theatre suits/uniform, staff must change into their own clothes.</p> <p>Theatre suits are for the sole usage of staff working within the operating theatre department / endoscopy unit. They are NOT for the purpose of medical staff wearing them as nightwear or day uniform. Also they are not to be supplied to other specialised areas of the UHB, if this practice persists then cross charging will be enforced.</p>	<p>To prevent contaminated clothing being worn in public place.</p>
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(l)	<p>Theatre porters / Operating Department Orderly's will be provided with a uniform by the Perioperative Care Directorate</p> <p>Theatre porters / Operating Department Orderly's will ensure that the uniform provided is kept clean and presentable at all times</p> <p>Theatre porters / Operating Department Orderly's must comply with bare below the elbow expectations</p>	<p>To allow Theatre porters / Operating Department Orderly's to be easily identifiable within the Perioperative Care Directorate</p> <p>To differentiate Theatre porters / Operating Department Orderly's from other porters across the UHB</p> <p>To meet the expected standards of the public and service users of the UHB.</p> <p>To conform with A "bare below the elbows" (DoH Guidance 2007) .This includes any interaction involving a patient.</p>
	<p>All visitors/other staff to theatre must adhere to this policy and wear an identification badge, and sign the visitors book.</p>	<p>This is in line with the UHB security policy.</p>

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