



Ascension St. John Hospital

Operating Room Observation

Dear Clinical Faculty:

Welcome to Ascension/St. John Hospital. The increased number of clinical placements of nursing students here encourages optimism in the growth of our nursing profession. We hope the students have a great clinical observation experience in the Operating Room. Changes in our OR Education Department have us continually striving to streamline the process for the student observation experience.

The Clinical Faculty from each College will:

1. Email a request for observation for your students as early as possible during your clinical rotation. Please tell me what days, what shift, how many students will be coming to shadow and how long they can stay. Once a date is agreed upon, please send names of the students shadowing that day. Include your email address and phone number also.
2. Emphasize to the students that they are in the OR for *observation* only, that they may not “scrub” and they must stay at least 1 to 2 feet away from the sterile field at all times.
3. Provide the students with the location of the Surgical Lounge. I will meet students in the Surgical Lounge, 2nd floor, just after 0700 on their selected day. Ask them to check in with the person at the desk, then have a seat. Please be sure my phone number is with them in case I get detained.
4. Remind Students: they must change into hospital scrubs inside the OR. Our rooms are cool to cold; tank tops and long underwear are permitted if they don't show outside of the scrubs. We have disposable long-sleeved cover jackets if needed.
5. All hair, including facial hair, must be covered by a disposable hat/beard cover that's provided. Please bring whatever ties or clips are needed to contain hair.
6. No jewelry please including watches and Fitbits; small earrings should be covered by the hat. Facial jewelry will need to be removed.
7. Students will wear provided eye protection.
8. Scented colognes, lotions or deodorants are not permitted. Please use unscented products.
9. Comfortable shoes are needed as there will be standing and walking.
10. Please ask students to “travel light” on their observation day. Lap tops and back packs are not needed.
11. A pen and hospital ID card are ok to bring.
12. If there are religious coverings, they will need to be removed or covered with our disposables.

13. Students will be placed individually in an OR. It will be rare that two students will observe in the same OR.
14. Cooperation with the above guidelines will be appreciated. They are based on our policies and not up for discussion.
15. Students who are “following” their patient from the floor to the OR: please arrange this by phone, in advance; even an hour in advance helps, so they can change into surgical scrubs and adhere to the above guidelines.
16. We want to make this a great experience for all!

Thank you,

Joan

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Are you wearing the proper OR attire????

If you are unsure, we have provided a reminder for you.

SCRUBS

- Obtained from the Scrub Avail at the start of the day and returned to the Scrub Avail at the end of the day.
- Scrub suits from other facilities must not be worn in our OR.
- Scrub tops should be tucked in if they are not close fitting to the torso.
- If you must go outside the hospital, you MUST change your scrubs upon your return to the OR.

UNDERGARMENTS

- Should not be visible in their natural state of wear.
- Turtlenecks, long sleeve tops, crew neck shirts should not be worn in the semi-restricted or restricted areas of the OR.

HEADCOVERS

- ALL hair, including facial hair (beards, partial or full) MUST be covered at all times within the semi-restricted and restricted areas of the OR. Any more than one day's growth of facial hair is considered a beard and must be covered. "Surgical head covering must confine hair, scalp skin, sideburns and nape of neck. Clean and freshly laundered cloth hats are allowed if completely covered by a disposable head cover. Beards must be completely covered while in restricted areas. Religious/cultural headcoverings must be completely covered by an approved disposable or facility laundered cover."

JACKETS

- Lab coats and/or hoodies of any material are NOT allowed in the semi-restricted or restricted areas of the OR.
- Disposable warm-up jackets are available at the front entrance to the OR and must be changed daily.

SHOES

- Persons entering the semi-restricted or restricted areas should wear clean shoes that are dedicated for use within the peri-operative area. Shoes should have closed toes, backs, low heels and nonskid soles. Shoes should be made of material resistant to penetration: leather, suede or rubber. Shoe covers should be worn when gross contamination is anticipated and discarded immediately after use. Street shoes worn into the semi-restricted and restricted areas should be covered with disposable shoe covers.

JEWELRY

- Necklaces, chains, rings, earrings and other visible body jewelry are not permitted in the OR.

NAILS

- SHORT, clean, trimmed and natural
- NO applications of ANY KIND other than freshly applied nail polish.

SCENTS

- Scented lotions, colognes, body sprays and deodorants are NOT permitted in the OR. Please use unscented products.