


# Guideline Implementation: Surgical Attire 1.0 [www.aorn.org/CE](http://www.aorn.org/CE)

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### Purpose/Goal

To provide the learner with knowledge specific to implementing the AORN “Guideline for surgical attire.”

### Objectives

1. Identify the key takeaways from the surgical attire guideline.
2. Explain the steps involved in correctly wearing surgical attire.
3. Describe methods of correctly handling personal communication or hand-held electronic devices in the OR.
4. Explain why scrub attire should be laundered in a health care–accredited laundry facility.
5. Discuss the RN’s role in developing policies and procedures for surgical attire.

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Ms Cowperthwaite and Ms Holm have no declared affiliations that could be perceived as posing potential conflicts of interest in the publication of this article.

The behavioral objectives for this program were created by Rebecca Holm, MSN, RN, CNOR, clinical editor, with consultation from Susan Bakewell, MS, RN-BC, director, Perioperative Education. Ms Holm and Ms Bakewell have no declared affiliations that could be perceived as posing potential conflicts of interest in the publication of this article.

### Sponsorship or Commercial Support

No sponsorship or commercial support was received for this article.

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2014.12.003>

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## ABSTRACT

Surgical attire helps protect patients from microorganisms that may be shed from the hair and skin of perioperative personnel. The updated AORN “Guideline for surgical attire” provides guidance on scrub attire, shoes, head coverings, and masks worn in the semirestricted and restricted areas of the perioperative setting, as well as how to handle personal items (eg, jewelry, backpacks, cell phones) that may be taken into the perioperative suite. This article focuses on key points of the guideline to help perioperative personnel adhere to facility policies and regulatory requirements for attire. The key points address the potential benefits of wearing scrub attire made of antimicrobial fabric, covering the arms when in the restricted area of the surgical suite, removing or confining jewelry when wearing scrub attire, disinfecting personal items that will be taken into the perioperative suite, and sending reusable attire to a health care–accredited laundry facility after use. Perioperative RNs should review the complete guideline for additional information and for guidance when writing and updating policies and procedures. *AORN J* 101 (February 2015) 189-194. © AORN, Inc, 2015. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.aorn.2014.12.003>

Key words: *surgical attire, scrub clothing, shoes, jewelry, head coverings, masks, cell phones, health care–accredited laundry facility.*

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