

**YALE-NEW HAVEN MEDICAL CENTER**  
(YNHMC)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Subject: Scrub Suits and Surgical Attire

Policy #: II.022

Effective Date: July 1, 2003

Distribution: Accredited and GMEC Approved Programs

Page 1 of 3

Revision Date:

**Introduction:**

Scrub suits and surgical attire are issued by the Hospital for use only in designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital and only for their intended purposes. This policy provides guidelines for the appropriate distribution, use, and return of Hospital-issued scrub suits and surgical attire in designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital.

**Policy:**

- A. Scrub suits and surgical attire are issued by the Hospital for use only in designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital and only for their intended purposes.
- B. Hospital scrub suits and surgical attire are laundered through contracted laundry services that meet the standards of the Association of Operating Room Nurses.
- C. Scrub suits DO NOT provide barrier protection for blood and/or body fluids.
- D. Designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital include:  
Central Sterile Supply, Labor and Delivery, the Operating Rooms, Diagnostic Imaging Special Procedure Rooms, the Dental Clinic, the Bone Marrow Transplantation Unit, Newborn Special Care Unit, In Vitro Fertilization Suite, and the Autopsy Room.

**Procedures:**

**Guidelines for Use, Distribution, and Return of Hospital-Issued Scrub Attire**

**A. Scrub Suits**

- 1. All authorized individuals who enter and/or work in the designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital must wear department-specific, clean Hospital scrub suits. Scrub suits must be changed daily and/or after contamination with blood and/or body fluids.
- 2. Scrub suits that do not conform to departmental standards MAY NOT BE WORN in the designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital.

3. Authorized individuals include the following groups:

- a) Physicians, nurses, technicians, and other Hospital or University staff working in the designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital;
- b) All House Staff assigned to the designated clinical or laboratory areas of the Hospital;
- c) Students assigned to the designated clinical or laboratory areas of the Hospital;
- d) Authorized non-employee users in the designated clinical or laboratory areas of the Hospital.

4. Scrub suits shall be distributed to authorized individuals according to the policies and procedures of the designated clinical and laboratory areas. Appropriate identification, e.g. Hospital or University identification badges, must be presented upon request in order to obtain scrub suits.

5. An adequate supply of scrub suits shall be available for all authorized individuals entering the designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital.

6. After use, or if contaminated, scrub suits must be placed into the laundry banks located in the designated clinical and laboratory areas.

### **B. Surgical Attire**

- 1. Surgical attire (gowns, hats, shoe covers) must not be worn outside the designated clinical and laboratory areas of the Hospital.
- 2. Surgical attire shall only be worn for its intended purpose; e.g. sterile surgical gowns shall not be used as cover-up or warm-up clothing.

### **Accountability**

A. Hospital scrub suits and surgical attire are hospital property and **may not be worn or taken home from the Hospital.**

B. The unauthorized use or removal from the premises of Hospital scrub suits and surgical attire by Yale-New Haven Hospital employees and staff shall result in progressive discipline in accordance with Human Resources Policy, B-8, "Employee Conduct and Discipline."

C. Scrub suits and surgical attire are Hospital property and will be issued and returned according to departmental procedures. The theft of scrub suits and surgical attire and any violations of this policy or departmental policies and procedures will result in disciplinary action as described in the Administration policy, H-1, "Hospital Property".

D. Authorized non-employee users of scrub suits and surgical attire shall obtain, use, and return scrub suits and surgical attire according to the policies and procedures of the designated clinical and laboratory area. No one, except as authorized by this policy, may use Hospital scrub suits or surgical attire. Unauthorized use will be reported.

E. Scrub suits and surgical attire issued by the Hospital must be returned when an authorized user terminates his/her employment or transfers from a designated clinical or laboratory area. Failure to return scrubs and surgical attire may result in a payroll deduction equal to the value of the garments.