



# Visitor Guide to the OR

# Welcome

- Welcome to the VUH operating room for your observational experience. Be sure you have completed the **Vanderbilt Observational Experience** approval process in preparation for your visit. Information to complete the process can be found at: <http://www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/voe>
- Vanderbilt employees are not required to complete the Vanderbilt Observation Experience

# Observational Role

- Most visitor experiences are observational only (non-sterile).
- Visitors will not be allowed to scrub in during the surgical procedure.
- Please review the below list of guidelines for observing-  
Observers are NOT permitted to:
  - Touch equipment or patients;
  - Access records, electronic information or any computer programs;
  - File or perform any clerical tasks;
  - Assist VUMC providers and staff in any way;
  - Use cell phones while observing

# Entering the Operating Room

- You will need to be properly dressed in hospital issued scrubs before entering the Operating Room
- Each entrance to the OR hallways has racks with hats, masks, eye protection, and shoe covers
- You will need to have these items in place before entering the OR Suite

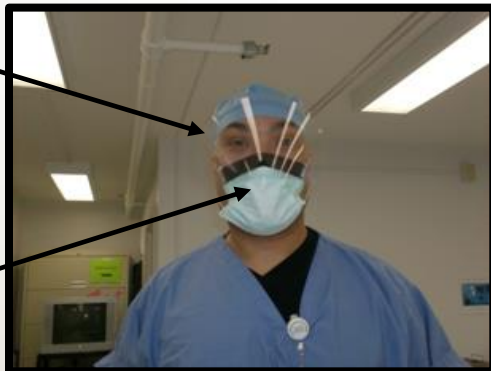


# Surgical Attire Tips

- Headgear (paper hat)
  - cover all head and facial hair
- Mask
  - cover nose and mouth completely
- Protective eyewear
  - reduces the risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens
- Shoes-
  - Comfortable, easily cleaned with closed toe
- Shoe covers-
  - (optional) keeps shoes clean

Eye protection

Mask



Head cover



Shoe covers

# What to expect

- The operating room is an exciting environment
- Strict measures are taken to prevent infection



# Vanderbilt Hand Hygiene Expectations

- Perform hand hygiene upon **ENTRY & EXIT** from the patient environment.

## What is the *Patient Environment* in the OR?

- Crossing room door into the OR room

- *Any use* of alcohol product or soap and water is considered compliant.

### **Except, you must use soap and water:**

- When your hands are visibly dirty
- After contact with a patient or their environment if the patient has *Clostridium difficile* (C. diff) infection.



# Definitions

- **Aseptic Technique:**
  - A group of procedures that prevent contamination of microorganisms through the knowledge and principles of contain and control
- **3 Goals:**
  - Maximize primary wound healing
  - Prevent surgical infection
  - Minimize the length of recovery from surgery
- **Sterile Technique:**
  - Methods by which contamination of an item is prevented by maintaining the sterility of the item or area involved with the procedure





# Sterile Drapes

- Sterile drapes should be used to establish a *sterile field* and provide a barrier to maintain sterility of the operative site.
- Sterile field definition:
  - Area immediately around the patient that has been prepared for a surgical procedure including all furniture and equipment covered with sterile drapes and all personnel that are properly attired
    - Patient
    - Scrub personnel
    - Operating table
    - Instrument table
    - Mayo stand
    - Other equipment



# Types of Drapes



Table covers



Mayo stand covers



Drape sheets



Towels



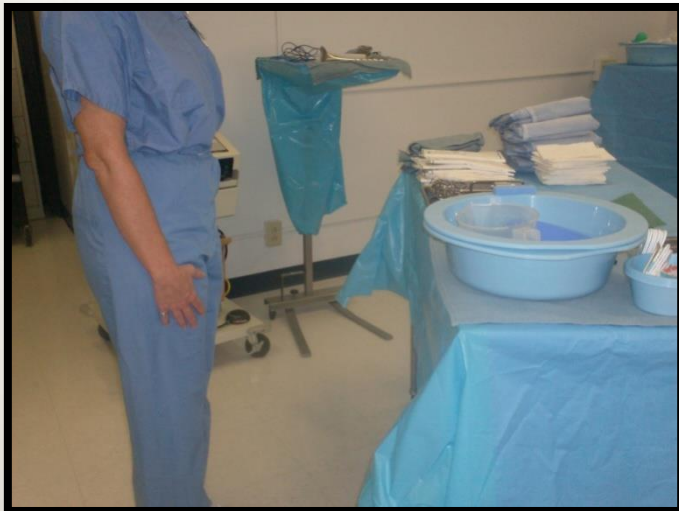
Microscope drapes



C-arm drape

# Movement around Sterile Field

- Un-scrubbed personnel (observers) should
  - Face sterile fields on approach
  - Not walk between two sterile fields
  - Be aware of the need for distance (*at least 12 inches*) from the sterile field
  - Never reach over a sterile field



# Maintenance of Sterile Field

- A *sterile field* should be maintained and monitored constantly
- Observers should:
  - Limit movement around the field as much as possible
  - Remember to stay at least *12 inches* from draped items
  - Do not reach over or touch items that may be sterile
  - Report any mistakes that may occur so that corrections can be made.



# Departure from OR

- When leaving the OR
  - Perform hand hygiene upon exit from the patient environment
  - Leave on mask and proper attire until outside of the restricted area of the surgical unit
  - Remove disposable paper products and discard
  - Turn in scrubs

