

## HIGH DESERT HEALTH SYSTEM AMBULATORY SURGICAL CENTER

<b>SUBJECT:</b> V-105 SURGICAL HAND SCRUB	<b>POLICY #:</b> 1230
	<b>VERSION:</b> 1
<b>APPROVED BY:</b> ASC Approvers	
<b>DATE APPROVED:</b> 06/28/2016	

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for surgical scrub of hands prior to surgical intervention.

**POLICY:** Persons participating in a sterile surgical procedure shall perform a surgical scrub as follows.

### **PROCEDURES:**

#### **I. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS DURING SCRUB**

- A. Use either an antimicrobial surgical scrub agent intended for surgical hand antisepsis or an alcohol-based antiseptic surgical hand rub with documented persistent and cumulative acceptable for the surgical hand scrub.
- B. Start the scrub over from the beginning if anything touches scrubbed areas (hands, finger, or arms).
- C. You may substitute a waterless or brushless system for traditional surgical hand scrub.

#### **II. GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS PRIOR TO ALL TYPES OF SCRUBS**

- A. Persons with open lesions and breaks in their skin should not scrub for surgical procedures.
- B. Natural fingernails are to be no more than ¼" long.
- C. The initial first scrub of the day will be a traditional scrub.
- D. Only persons in proper scrub attire shall scrub.
- E. Scrubbed persons are not permitted to wear jewelry on hands or arms.
- F. Adjust the cap to cover and contain all hair.

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- G. Don a fresh surgical mask. If others are at the scrub sink, a surgical mask shall be worn in the presence of hand scrub activity.
- H. Apply goggles or protective eyewear.
- I. Avoid splashing surgical attire.

### III. SURGICAL HAND SCRUB

#### A. Traditional Surgical Hand Scrub

A surgical hand scrub will be performed before donning sterile gloves for surgical or other invasive procedures.

1. Remove jewelry including rings, watches and bracelets.
2. Don a surgical mask.
3. Wash hands and forearms if visibly soiled with soap and running water immediately before beginning the surgical scrub.
4. Clean subungual areas of both hands under running water with a disposable nail cleaner.
5. Apply the antimicrobial agent to wet hands and forearms using a soft nonabrasive sponge.
6. An initial five minute scrub should be timed to allow adequate product contact with skin, according to the manufacturers written directions.
7. Visualize each finger, hand and arm as having four sides. Wash all four sides including the web spaces, to two inches above elbow keeping the hand elevated. Repeat this process for opposite fingers, hand and arm.
8. When scrub is complete, discard sponges in appropriate containers.
9. Hands and arms should be rinsed under running water in one direction from fingertips to elbows as often as needed.
10. Hold hands higher than elbows and away from surgical attire.

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11. In the OR suite, dry hands and arms with a sterile towel before donning sterile surgical gown and gloves.
  12. All subsequent scrubs should be timed for at least three minutes following the same procedure as the initial scrub of the day.
- B. Use of Alcohol-Based Antiseptic Surgical Hand Scrub Product for Surgical Hand Scrub**
1. Remove jewelry including rings, watches and bracelets.
  2. Don a surgical mask.
  3. If visibly soiled, prewash hands and forearms with plain soap and water or antimicrobial agent.
  4. Clean under the nails with a disposable nail stick. Dispense the manufacture recommended amount of the surgical hand rub product to clean dry hands.
  5. Apply the product to the hands and forearms, following the manufacturers written directions.
  6. Rub thoroughly until dry. Hands and arms must be allowed to dry before donning gloves.
  7. In the OR suite don sterile surgical gown and gloves.

**REFERENCES:**

AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices, 2016

WHO Guidelines on Hand Hygiene in Health Care, 09/09/2013

The Manual of Operating Room Management

Alexander’s Care of the Patient in Surgery, 2011

Ambulatory Surgical Nursing, 2012

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