Guidelines for Surgery Experience to Prevent Surgical Site Infections

Attire:
1. No jewelry of any kind is allowed in the surgical suite, whether covered by attire or not.
2. No artificial nails.
3. Nail polish may be worn if not chipped or peeling and no nail jewelry allowed.
4. All hair, including facial, must be covered.
5. Shoe covers will be worn over street shoes.
6. T-shirt-style undershirts must be small enough to be completely contained underneath the scrubs issued; they cannot be visible at all.
7. Surgical masks are to be worn in the surgical environment where open sterile supplies or scrubbed persons are located.

Behaviors:
1. Un-scrubbed persons must be aware of the need for a safe distance from the sterile field, approximately 24 inches; must face the sterile field and should never walk between two sterile fields; conversation in the presence of a sterile field should be kept to a minimum.
2. Traffic flow in the O.R. will be restricted, according to AORN recommendations. Minimize or eliminate leaving and returning to the surgical suite, once the case has begun.

Key principles related to student status:
1. There is no way to secure any personal belongings, such as purse, book bag or wallet.
2. Students need to eat a snack/drink fluid in moderation and use the restroom before entering the surgical suite.
3. Students are visitors in the OR and therefore must wear the green surgical cap identifying them as such.

Key principles for faculty members:
1. Prepare a list of dates, student names, and contact information at the beginning of the clinical rotation. Send this list to Deborah Antonacci (Antonacci.deborah@mhsil.com) or Jennifer Golembeck (Golembeck.jennifer@mhsil.com) at the beginning of the semester.
2. Please let us know if your students have any special needs. Students who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant should not be assigned to x-ray/fluoroscopy cases or cases where bone cement will be in use.
3. If your student needs 4 X large scrub clothing or larger, please let us know before observation day so we can ensure appropriate size scrubs are available.
4. Arrive to the OR front desk between 6:50 AM and 7:00 AM. Every first Thursday of the month, the OR has a staff meeting. Should your clinical rotation fall on the first Thursday of the month, please report to the OR front desk at 8:00 AM.