SATS Position statement
Peri-operative Attire for the Operating room Suite

Gowns and overshoes:

The optimal goal in any operating room suite would be the prevention of infection. To have a successful outcome to this goal, all members that are part of the holistic team need to work together. Certain basic principles on cleanliness of environment and personal hygiene need to be implemented. These basic principles must be adhered to at all times, and unit Managers, staff and infection control departments must be vigilant in their control and evaluation of best practice.

- In a survey done by the ITC 18% of respondents cited problems relating to surgical attire as most common
- Noble in 1975 on the shedding of skinflakes, found that men dispersed more viable skin bacteria than women
- In 2000- Tammelin tested nares. 43% of men and 23% of women dispersed MRSE
- In 2007 the surgeons of England did a survey on shoes that are used in the operating room. Outdoor shoes were found to be contaminated with Staph, coliformis, bacillus and micrococcus.
- Dedicated operating room shoes were far less contaminated
- In a study by Neely 2000 it was found that Staph survived at least 1 day on fabrics and plastics and enterococcus up to 11 days or longer (Kimberly Clark March 2014)

Therefore be it resolved that SATS recommends:

- That the policy regarding peri-operative attire be in writing.
- That all members of the holistic team in the OR receive a copy during induction.
- That strict control is maintained of adherence to the policy.
- That staff will not wear long-sleeved garments under their scrub suites.
- That dedicated cover jackets are made available during colder months.
- That cover jackets be zipped closed so that sterile field cannot be breached by jacket flaps.
- That cover jackets remain within the complex.
- That scrub gowns be laundered at a dedicated laundry.
- That home laundering is not recommended.
- That all scrub gowns be discarded after use, or send for washing.
- That over gowns are worn when leaving the peri-operative area.
- That a clean set of attire be donned daily and changed if soiled.
- That all brief cases, backpacks and other items that are not part of the required equipment be left outside the operating suite.
- That if these items are contaminated they may cause harm to the general public.
• That dedicated inside shoes are recommended.
• That shoes must be water repellent, and washable.
• That closed toed shoes or clogs are recommended.
• That dedicated shoes be washed at the end of the day
• That dedicated shoes are not used outside of the operating room.
• That dedicated shoes meet with the Health and Safety requirements of the hospital.
• That disposable overshoes always be available.
• That disposable overshoes be discarded after use
• That hands are washed after changing shoes and gowns

Developed April 2014 Mrs. V Pieterse.