

**Mercy Medical Center
Patient Care Policies & Procedures**

SURGICAL SERVICES: OPERATING ROOM	POLICY: 2719.00 Page 1 of 2
RESTRICTIONS OF TRAFFIC TO THE OR SUITE	EFFECTIVE: MARCH 27, 1997 REVISED: MAY 1999; JUNE 2002; FEB 2004; JUNE 2006 CORRESPONDING POLICIES:

Policy

Traffic patterns in the Operating Room are planned, monitored and controlled within the surgical practice setting.

Purpose

Care of the patient during surgery requires movement of patients, personnel and material within the surgical suite. Control of traffic patterns within the surgical suite assists in containment and upholding sterility of surgical environment.

Procedure

1. The surgical practice setting is designed to facilitate movement of patients and personnel through, into and out of defined areas within the surgical suite.
Points of Interest
Unrestricted Areas – These are areas where traffic is not limited and all personnel and visitors may wear street clothes.
Semirestricted Areas – These are areas in which patients must wear gowns and hair cover and all others must wear surgical scrub clothes and hair cover. These areas would include storage areas for instruments and supplies, processing areas for instruments and supplies, hallways and passageways leading to restricted areas.
Restricted Areas – These are areas where all personnel require surgical attire and masks. No exceptions.
 2. Movement of personnel should be kept to a minimum once the patient has entered the room and while surgery is in progress.
 3. Before entering the surgical suite communication must occur with the circulating nurse.
Points of Interest
Needed supplies, equipment, etc., must occur through an exchange at the clean inner core door.
 4. Once the surgical procedure has begun, additional persons entering the room should be limited to:
 - a. Break and lunch relief;
 - b. Emergency situation;
 - c. As deemed necessary for the completion of the surgical procedure.
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Points of Interest

Example: radiology, EEG, positioning assistance.

5. Enter into the operating room suite via the side door for patient privacy and to aid infection control prevention.
 6. In order to provide patient privacy, sales representatives are permitted in the surgical suite ONLY while their product or equipment is being used. Otherwise, they are to wait outside of the room or in the employee lunchroom. At no time are representatives permitted in the surgeon's lounge.
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