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Guidelines for Wheelchair Use in the Operating Room

Introduction: Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA,) employers with 15 or more employees must accommodate qualified individuals with disabilities to allow them to perform the essential functions of the job, unless doing so would create an "undue hardship." The operating room setting requires surgical scrub attire to be worn to reduce exogenous contamination (shedding) by covering as much of the body as possible. Surgical attire should be changed when soiled, contaminated, or penetrated by blood or other potentially infectious materials and at the end of the shift before leaving the facility. Individuals directly involved with the surgical field don sterile gowns and gloves over their surgical scrubs. These personnel wear gowns that must protect from strikethrough of blood or other potentially infectious materials in accordance with the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard of OSHA.

Purpose	To provide for safe use of a wheelchair in the operating room, to include patient and healthcare worker safety and protection of the sterile field.
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Policy	A wheelchair as part of ADA accommodations is viewed as an extension of the person who uses it, rather than a separate piece of equipment. Don't assume the person in the wheelchair requires additional assistance—always ask if they would like your help before you give it. Remember the wheelchair is a part of the person, so do not lean on or hang anything from it. If assistance is needed changing into scrubs, same-gender nurses or techs will be asked to assist as needed. This will be assigned by the charge nurse for the day. It is important to clean and cover the wheelchair, when the personal wheelchair is used, just as standing personnel would clean and cover their person according to current AORN recommended practice prior to entering the semi-restricted corridor.
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Procedure/Intervention(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess the hallways, locker room and OR making sure there is a clear path2. Make door entries accessible for entry/exit3. Wheelchair is to be cleaned, before entering the semi-restricted corridor. If personal wheelchair is used (cloth seat) the practitioner will be covered with a lap drape that covers the exposed cushion, prior to the sterile gown, if there is an increased risk of blood/body fluid exposure during the procedure. An approved hospital disinfectant or disinfectant wipes will be used. The chair will be cleaned by the team assigned to the OR (The PCA will most likely do the cleaning as the CST and RN will be preparing the room for surgery)4. The wheelchair will be draped out by the CST and Circulator in the room. The circulator will help move the wheelchair to the OR table, unless the standing chair is used. If the person in the wheelchair needs to be moved to a different location intra-operatively, the circulator will work with that person to move them – unless the
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	<p>standing chair is used (the surgeon/resident should be able to move it as the controls will be draped out.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. After the procedure the wheelchair drapes will be removed, and the chair will be cleaned with an approved hospital disinfectant or disinfectant wipes if visibly soiled by the OR team. 6. At the end of the day, the standing wheelchair will be cleaned with an approved hospital disinfectant or disinfectant wipes by the OR team and stored in the equipment storage room. 7. The next time the standing chair is to be used it will be cleaned with an approved hospital disinfectant or disinfectant wipes before entering the OR. 8. When the personal wheelchair is used, it will be cleaned with an approved hospital disinfectant or disinfectant wipes before leaving the OR suite at the end of the day. 9. The scrub sink will have accommodations made to it for scrubbing of hands
<p>References</p>	<p>Amber Wood, MSN, RN, CNOR, CIC, FAPIC, ed. 2019. AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. Denver, CO, USA. AORN (Association of periOperative Registered Nurses). ISBN-10: 0-939583-05-4, ISBN-13: 978-0-939583-05-8; https://online.statref.com/document/3d-UBITyuaUQunp57nJcVN!!</p> <p>Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (2009.) TITLE 42 - The Public Health and Welfare; Chapter 126 - Equal Opportunity for Individuals with Disabilities. Accessible at http://www.ada.gov/pubs/adastatute08.htm#12101note</p> <p>Madsen J, Konrath M, Olson B, et.al (2012). Standing Paraplegic Omni-directional Transport (SPOT). Accessible at http://bmedesign.engr.wisc.edu/projects/file/?fid=2326</p> <p>BraunAbility. (2011, Dec 1). Disability in America Infographic. Retrieved from http://www.disabled-world.com/disability/statistics/american-disability.php</p> <p>Fecho, K. et al. Postoperative mortality after inpatient surgery: Incidence and risk factors, 2008. Ther Clin Risk Manag. 2008 August; 4(4): 681-688. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2621384/</p> <p>Murphy, Rebecca J (2019). Surgical Services, APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, Chapter 69. Retrieved from https://text.apic.org/toc/infection-prevention-for-practice-settings-and-service-specific-patient-care-areas/surgical-services</p> <p>Cahn, Julie. Clinical Issues-December 2018. "Scrubbed personnel in wheelchairs" AORN Journal 108(6):686-694. http://doi.org/10.1002/aorn.12438.</p>