PREOPERATIVE HAIR REMOVAL

POLICY:

Appropriately trained personnel will prep area appropriate for operative procedures. Prep manual is available for specific areas for skin preparation and hair removal.

PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for safe hair removal at operative site.

SUPORTIVE DATA:

Whenever possible, hair should be left at surgical site. Hair removal will be performed as close to time of surgery as possible. Hair removal should be performed outside of room where procedure will be performed. Hair removal should be performed in a manner that preserves skin integrity. OB GYN/Vaginal preps will be done in the room after the patient is asleep.

EQUIPMENT LIST:

1. Disposable clipper head
2. Battery operated clippers
3. Gloves
4. Good light
5. Blue underpad
6. Sticky tape to remove hair from skin

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<tr>
<th>Procedure Steps</th>
<th>Key Points</th>
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<td>1. Check OR schedule.</td>
<td>1. Will provide patient’s name and surgical procedure to be done. Operations scheduled late and those not on OR schedule must be reported to the Ambulance Office.</td>
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<td>2. Refer to prep manual for area to have hair removed.</td>
<td>5. Patient must be disrobed and in a hospital gown. Ensure correct patient and procedure.</td>
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<td>3. Wash hands.</td>
<td>6. Permit family members to stay with patient permission.</td>
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<td>4. Take assembled supplies to the room. Place on bedside table.</td>
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<td>5. Introduce yourself and explain procedure. Check patient nameband and verify correct procedure.</td>
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<td>6. Provide privacy for patient.</td>
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<td>7. Close room door, pull curtain.</td>
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<td>8. Elevate bed.</td>
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<td>9. Position and drape patient for adequate procedure.</td>
<td>9. Do not expose patient any more than necessary.</td>
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10. Place a disposable blue pad under area to be prepped.
11. Use over-head room light.
12. Examine patient’s skin for abrasions, infection, irritations, such as boils and pimples or for any skin blemishes such as moles and birthmarks. If a bandaid or dressing is present within the prep location, ask the RN to remove and examine.
11. Additional lighting available.
12. If abnormality is noted report to RN before doing prep or any questions as to prepping over the area. A dressing or band-aid must be removed by team leader. Use a Whisk pledget to remove any adhesive residue. RN should assess and determine need for further communication.

13. Place disposable head on clippers.
15. Depress to lock button and slide the on/off switch to the on position. Clip the hair with the clippers.
16. Use one hand to pull skin taut for clipping. Glide the face of the clipper blade parallel against the surface of the skin. Clip against the lie of the hair.
16. Use a sticky tape for removing hair from skin.
17. Remove underpad carefully and dispose of it.
18. Replace bed linen if needed.
19. Lower the bed, put bedside table in place.
20. Remove equipment. Clean equipment.
21. Wash hands.
22. Chart prep and sign name.
23. Inform RN prep has been completed.

Removing Used Blades

In order to prevent cross-contamination between patients, remove and discard the clipper blades after each use and clean the clipper body. Use the following procedure.

1. Turn the clipper off.
2. Position the clipper over an appropriate sharps trash receptacle so that the blade is facing downward.
3. Using the thumb notch located on the back of the blade, push the blade forward along the blade frame until the marks on each side of the blade are aligned with the dots closest to the front of the clipper on the blade frame.
4. Release pressure from the thumb notch and allow the used blade to fall into the sharps container.

Care and Cleaning of Clippers

1. After removing the used clipper head, clean the clipper unit with water and a mild detergent.
2. Dry the unit with a clean dry towel.

REFERENCES: