

RE: Page 8 - footnote 4

This now refers to scrubs as being included in outer protective wear along with gowns and tunics.
- on page 15 of the Infection and Prevention Control Practice Standard (2016) - under Outer Protective Clothing, there is no mention of scrubs.

Scrubs traditionally are not designed for the purpose of preventing fluids penetrating to skin or clothing beneath i.e. it is not outer protective clothing. Scrubs are put on to replace street clothing so that when the person enters the theatre area, they are not taking in outside matter on their street clothes such as dust and soil. In recent times, healthcare workers are replacing their outside/home clothing with scrubs immediately on entering the hospital to avoid taking "bugs" back home on their clothing. Scrubs are designed to be comfortable, breathable and loose fitting to fit all sizes, shapes and heights.

So reading these documents is confusing - how many layers does a dentist actually need to wear?
Is scrubs a uniform or outer protective clothing?

It is a reasonable expectation to change the outer-most layer between patients.
As it currently reads, the outer protective clothing short sleeve garment cannot technically be the scrubs as it is unlikely to be fluid resistant BUT it seems rather excessive to put on a fluid resistant gown over the scrubs and then follow this up with a plastic apron over it to avoid changing the protective gown between patients.

Therefore under "Standard Precautions"
- should it be reworded to require the outer protective layer to be either a fluid resistant gown/tunic/apron (with bib)? The practitioner then can put on a fluid resistant apron (with bib) over the scrubs (uniform) and discard between patients as the amount of coverage from the apron (with bib) is really no different from a short sleeve gown or tunic? The scrubs are changed at the end of the day (earlier if soiled/wet).

RE: Plastic apron

The thrust of the plastic apron is presumably about fluid resistance.
In these times of global warming, trying to reduce use of plastics etc - could the "plastic apron" be modified to a fluid resistance apron with bib?
- the food industry has such aprons and therefore reusable.

Kind regards
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