

Operating Theatre Etiquette

When working in the operating theatre it is important to behave professionally:



- Identify yourself to the senior surgeon and member of Nursing staff. It is a legal requirement for the names of anyone present during an operation to be recorded.
- Never enter theatre if not dressed in appropriate clothing and footwear. Always wear a theatre hat and cover your hair. Long sleeves are not allowed, even under theatre tops. Individual theatres and surgeons have different requirements for wearing theatre masks. (Remember that masks and visors also protect the wearer from splashes of blood and other body fluids)
- Never touch or approach sterile personnel or equipment unless you are scrubbed and gowned.
- As a courtesy to the patient, do not enter the anaesthetic room whilst the patient is being anaesthetised, unless you have sought permission from the patient and anaesthetist beforehand.
- Be silent or talk quietly whilst in theatre.

Professor Robert Kirby, MD, FRCS
Professor of Clinical Education and Surgery
and Consultant Surgeon
UHM Hospital Dean, Keele University Medical School

January 2018