

## TIPS ON THEATRE ETIQUETTE

These tips have been created to help new/trainee staff and any authorised visitors to observe the appropriate behaviours when present in theatres.

- Students should attend Team Briefing if possible (*between 0800-0830 hours*).
- All staff entering theatre should wear scrubs and hats (pink/purple for visitors and white for students).
- Please introduce yourself to the nurse in charge of the theatre you are visiting.
- All mobile communications should only be used for essential/emergency communication and should be turned to silent.
- Always introduce yourself to patients and staff.
- Keep doors closed to maintain positive air pressures and reduce fire risk.
- If a patient is being induced (put to sleep) by the Anaesthetist – **DO NOT ENTER THE ANAESTHETIC ROOM**. This is a high risk task-orientated process that requires complete concentration.
- Do not use the anaesthetic room as a corridor.
- Keep a good distance (at least 30cm) from surgical drapes if you are not scrubbed.
- Movement should be kept to a minimum, try not to rush about to reduce cross-infection.
- Do feel free to question staff as to what and why they are doing things. In general, staff love to be asked questions about theatre work and will tell you everything they know.
- The patient should not be left unattended at any time. If you see a patient who has been left unattended, remain with them until a theatre practitioner arrives.
- If you observe any actual or potential break in sterile procedure, even if you are unsure, speak to the practitioner in charge.
- Please speak up if you have any concerns about patient safety.
- All staff to be mindful of potential damage to equipment, e.g. drink spillages.
- Company representatives can attend theatre only at invitation of the surgeon or anaesthetist and following agreement from the theatre team leader