



ASNM

American Society of
Neurophysiological Monitoring

Position Statement

Topic: Use of Disposable HCIR Scrubs for Contracted IONM Clinical Support Personnel

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Abbreviations:

- ASNM – American Society of Neurophysiological Monitoring
- IONM – Intraoperative Neurophysiological Monitoring
- HCIR - Health Care Industry Representative
- OR – Operating Room

Definitions:

- IONM: The use of electrophysiological techniques during surgery to continuously assess the functional integrity of the nervous system (brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves) in real time, with the goal of detecting and preventing neurological injury before it becomes permanent.
- IONM Clinical Support Personnel: Technicians and other non-physician neurophysiologists providing clinical support in the OR for IONM with direct patient contact.

IONM is performed by a team of highly trained physicians and IONM clinical support personnel who are either directly employed by the facility rendering patient care; or, more frequently outsourced to a private group (Contracted IONM). Contracted IONM clinical support personnel have direct contact with the patient preoperatively and perioperatively with the application of monitoring electrodes and electroneurophysiological tests required for IONM. Effective IONM requires close communication and coordination between IONM clinical support personnel, surgeons, anesthesiologists and operating room staff.

It is the position of ASNM that it is the responsibility of the contracting facility to provide OR attire that ensures IONM clinical support personnel are recognized by the patient and all clinical

staff as a member of the patient care team. Disposable paper scrubs or other attire typically assigned to HCIR or vendor representatives can create confusion regarding the role of IONM personnel within the perioperative team and may impede effective integration and communication with the surgical care team. This can compromise teamwork and trust among all stakeholders, jeopardizing patient satisfaction and, most critically, patient safety. Attire typically assigned to HCIR or vendor representatives may not be consistent with the attire and protective standards expected for personnel who are directly involved in patient care activities within the operating room.

It is the recommendation of ASNM that contracted IONM clinical support personnel who are actively participating in patient care activities in the operating room should be provided with OR attire consistent with that issued to other non-employed clinical personnel participating in surgical patient care. This recommendation does not preclude healthcare facilities from utilizing vendor credentialing or access management systems required for regulatory compliance or institutional policy.

1. López JR, Ahn-Ewing J, Emerson R, Ford C, Gale C, Gertsch JH et al. Guidelines for Qualifications of Neurodiagnostic Personnel: A Joint Position Statement of the American Clinical Neurophysiology Society, the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine, the American Society of Neurophysiological Monitoring, and ASET-The Neurodiagnostic Society. *Neurodiagn J*. 2023 Mar;63(1):14-46. doi: 10.1080/21646821.2023.2183008. PMID: 37023377.
2. The Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN). AORN statement on the role of the health care industry representative in the operating room. AORN Online [online]. May 2020. Available from Internet: <https://doi.org/10.1002/aorn.13065>
3. American College of Surgeons. Revised statement on health care industry representatives in the operating room. Statements of the College [online]. 2016 October. Available from Internet: <https://www.facs.org/about-acs/statements/health-care-industry-representatives-in-the-operating-room/>