A) Policy Statement

The laser will be operated only by personnel who have been trained in laser safety and operation of the specific laser unit.

B) Purpose of Policy

To ensure safety to patients and staff by limiting use of laser equipment and performance of laser procedures to qualified personnel.

C) Procedure

1. The laser will be operated only by personnel who have had training in laser safety and operation of the specific laser unit.

2. At least one member of the laser team will be present to operate the laser and monitor safety, in addition to personnel required to perform procedure. The laser team member is responsible for the laser and its safe operation. The laser team member will not function in the capacity of the circulator during the procedure.

3. Keys will be removed from the laser when not in use and stored in the Operating Room Sterile Core cupboard between ORs #4 and #5.

4. Each laser will be tested by a Laser Surgical Nurse (LSN) for proper function prior to the first procedure of the day or after laser has been moved to a different room. (Refer to testing procedure for appropriate laser).

5. If the laser is not functioning properly, the laser will not be used until the problem has been corrected. Technology Support will be notified immediately to repair the laser or make repair arrangements.

6. The laser foot pedal will be operated only by the surgeon using the laser. The laser foot pedal will be identified verbally by the laser team member when placing it for use.

7. The surgeon is responsible for selecting laser settings (watts, duration, mode).

8. During the procedure, the laser team member will operate the laser (depending on laser being used) according to the surgeon's requested settings.

9. Only the surgeon, or resident under direct supervision of the surgeon, will operate the laser power activation controls.

10. The laser will be placed in "STANDBY" when the surgeon removes his hands or eyes from the field or the laser equipment. The surgeon will give a verbal "STANDBY" command.
11. The laser will be placed in "STANDBY" mode on verbal command from the surgeon when changes in laser setting are requested. Changes in laser settings will be announced by the laser team member for verification.

12. The laser will remain "OFF" when not in use.

13. Any laser use determined to be "unsafe" by laser staff will be cause for the laser to be shut down and the situation evaluated before laser use may resume. Such occurrences will be reported immediately to the Nurse Manager or designee of the Operating Room and Technology Support.

14. Laser equipment and accessories will be maintained according to manufacturer's recommendations by Technology Support.

Approved by:

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It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.