



# Clinical Dress Code

## The Dress Code has three basic principles:

1. Patients should feel confident that they are being treated by a team of professionals. Your appearance is one part of ensuring patients have confidence in their carers.
2. All patients should feel their beliefs are respected. Ethnic origin, religious conviction and age group can influence patients' views on appropriate dress. Patients should be made to feel as comfortable as possible in a clinical setting and inappropriate dress can cause unnecessary offence and upset.
3. Dress must conform to health & safety requirements for your protection and the protection of patients.

As a general rule in a clinical setting men should wear a shirt & tie, and jeans are not allowed. Women should wear a blouse/smart top with trousers or skirt, again no jeans allowed. Dress for areas such as Psychiatry and Child Health may be more casual but the following rules must always be followed:

- Clothing should generally cover the body from the shoulder to the knee.
- Bare midriffs are not acceptable.
- Miniskirts are not appropriate.
- Excessively low cut or off-the-shoulder tops are inappropriate.
- Students should be aware that wearing sexually provocative clothing can be seen by some individuals as an invitation to make inappropriate and offensive comments/actions. This is particularly the case in areas such as A&E where patients and visitors may have been drinking and/or taking drugs. Students' dress should therefore be of a conservative nature.
- Clothing should be clean & pressed.
- Clothing should not restrict easy movement.
- Clothing should not display prominent logos or pictures.
- Combat-style trousers, jeans, and shorts are inappropriate.
- Denim jeans, spandex, leggings, athletic wear, and sweatsuits shall not be worn.
- Shoes should be neat and clean. In your own interest, footwear should be comfortable to wear, but trainers/sneakers are not acceptable. Wearing shoes with closed toes is advised to minimize risk of injury to the feet.
- Stiletto heels are inappropriate.
- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum. Dangling earrings and facial piercing are not appropriate.
- Hair should be clean and tied back if long.
- Well-groomed, closely trimmed beards, sideburns, and moustaches are allowed, but may not interfere with personal protective gear.
- A student's white coat should be worn on ward rounds and outpatients. The white coat must be *clean* and pressed.

Please note that your clinical supervisors have the authority to advise any student who is not complying with the dress code as outlined or who they feel is in any other way inappropriately attired for clinical service.

***You should always have your identity badge prominently displayed.***

Note these rules apply to the clinical working environment. However, if you are entering a clinical area for any activity you should ensure that your dress will not cause offence to staff, patients or visitors.

In addition, unless told otherwise, students should comply with the Dress Code (including wearing white coats) when undertaking clinical assessments. A student may be marked down in a clinical assessment for failing to comply with the Dress Code.

For any further queries please contact:

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