

## **DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY MEDICAL STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Welcome to your 3rd Year Surgery Clerkship!

Your clinical clerkships represent an exciting and important time in your medical education. The public expectations of you as a student physician and as a representative of the Department of Surgery are more than you realize.

Your time to complete your training is short and while with the Department of Surgery you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner required of a physician and surgeon. The level of professionalism that may have been appropriate in your college and nonclinical medical school years will no longer be acceptable. You now represent the Department of Surgery to nurses, house staff, and collaborating services but most importantly.....our patients. Business attire is required for all patient and non-patient activities. The dress code is in place to maintain a level of professionalism, as you develop relationships with your patients, as student doctors.

Scrubs are one of the most misused hospital dress items. Several rules about scrubs to keep in mind:

1. Scrubs are hospital property and may NOT leave the hospital.
2. Scrubs are an effective way to spread infectious disease among your patients.
3. You must wear a white coat over scrubs any time you leave the OR.

Although Dress Codes may vary between clerkships, and others may not adhere to the policy, it is strictly enforced by the Department of Surgery Core Clerkship. You are the future of medicine and are held to a high standard.

Please feel free to contact the Clerkship Director with any questions.

## **Department of Surgery Medical Student Dress Code**

### 1. Attire

- a. Men/Women: Business style clothes and shoes are required for the clerkship and are required in all non-patient related activities, which include all lectures, conferences, and meetings.
  1. Button-down shirts with ties, with clean pressed pants are mandatory for men. No jeans, cargo pants or cut-offs. Pants should not be worn below the waist line and/or dragging the floor.
  2. Women should wear professional blouses or sweaters. Low cut or clinging shirts, sweaters or blouses are inappropriate. Tops should be long enough to be tucked in or cover the waistband. Midriffs must be covered.
  3. Dresses and skirts must be no shorter than 2 inches above the knee and below the knee if no stockings are worn. No Capri pants, jeans, cargo pants, or leggings.
  4. Name tags must be worn visibly indicating your name and medical student identity at all times.
  5. Clean, white lab coats must be worn during all patient care activities, except for procedures and trauma evaluations.
  6. Hair should be neat; when in doubt, pull it back. Men's beards are acceptable when neatly trimmed.
  7. Shoes should be polished, neat and clean, and always with closed toes. Clogs are acceptable.
  8. Refrain from use of perfume and cologne.
  
- b. Unacceptable Items:
  1. Hats, caps, bandanas, scrub caps, unless for religious/cultural or medical reasons.
  2. Any non-tailored form of clothing (e.g. slacks, denims, skirts, shirts) that are soiled or torn (including denims that contain holes or tears as a fashion statement). Pants of any style should not drag on the floor.
  3. Any dress considered provocative or exposing undergarments.
  4. Any open-toe shoes, which may include but are not limited to: "flip-flops," "Birkenstocks" or other sandals. Hiking boots are also unacceptable.
  5. Lab coats that are excessively soiled or stained.
  6. Exposure of tattoos or other body art unless considered to be part of a religious custom or cultural dress.
  7. No facial piercings or dangling earrings.

## 2. Scrub Attire

- a. Scrubs may be worn ONLY when performing direct patient care in the inpatient or operating room setting.
- b. Under no circumstances are scrubs to be worn outside the patient care area and never outside the Medical Center buildings.
- c. While on nighttime call, students may wear scrubs with a lab coat over
- d. Do not wear tee shirts underneath your scrubs if they extend beyond the scrub top.
- e. Sweatshirts, sweaters, pullovers and hoodies are not permitted over scrubs.
- f. Scrubs are NEVER to be worn outside of the hospital or to the hospital.
- g. Inappropriate Scrub Use:
  1. Classroom lecture (business attire is required)
  2. Conferences
  3. Faculty meetings
  4. Outside of the hospital
  5. Outpatient clinics
  6. MSB

## 3. Professionalism Requirements/Guidelines

- a. Do not chew gum when talking to patients or faculty.
- b. No eating or drinking in front of patients or in patient care areas.
- c. Never discuss patient care issues in public areas, such as cafeterias and elevators.
- d. Do not criticize faculty, staff, peers or institutions in public areas.
- e. Keep beepers and cell phones on vibrator/silent mode so as not to interrupt attendings and patients.

Note: Students may dress slightly more casually for the final written exam.

Students who violate the dress code will have a comment in their Dean's Summary Letter reflecting their lack of professionalism in this area.