



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine

Postgraduate
Medical Education

Faculté
de médecine

Formation médicale
postdoctorale

Policy Name: PGME Dress Code Policy

Approved by: C-MEG

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Pertinent to: Postgraduate Medical Education faculty, residents and fellows

Purpose: Describe the expected attire for faculty and learners while working in the clinical setting

Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) Dress Code Guidelines While Working in Clinical Settings

PGME's dress code applies to faculty, residents and fellows. Our goal is to provide guidelines on how to dress appropriately during clinical encounters with patients, standardized or real.

This dress code aims to ensure:

- Patients feel confident they are receiving care from a professional team. How we dress goes a long way towards ensuring they trust our knowledge and abilities.
- The way we dress conforms to health and safety requirements for our protection and the protection of patients.

Overview:

In general, we expect all faculty, residents and fellows to dress professionally when in the clinical setting. Business casual attire is the norm.

Guidelines

ID Badge

- In respect of patients' rights, you must wear your ID badge visibly at all times.

Clothing

- Your clothing should be professional and must be neat, clean and presentable at all times.
- Business casual garments such as button-down shirts, polo shirts, blouses, sweaters, cardigans, pants, slacks, skirts, and dresses are generally appropriate.

- The use of short sleeves and the adoption of a “bare below the elbow” approach is encouraged where appropriate.
- Revealing or low cut tops are inappropriate.
- Legs should be covered to the knees.
- The standards for a particular location may vary. Informal items such as jeans or shorts may be appropriate depending on the team and situation.

Shoes:

- Footwear should be professional and comfortable (demure sneakers are acceptable).
- Closed-toe shoes are required in all areas where there is a potential for exposure to sharp objects or to bodily fluids.

Accessories:

- Ties and scarves are inappropriate, as they are vectors for microbes and possible sources of infection.
- Jewelry could be hazardous and should not be worn when providing patient care.
- Fake nails are not permitted as they prevent proper hand hygiene.
- On surgical rotations, nail polish may not be allowed, or it may need to be free of chips, depending on local policy.

Grooming:

- Hair, including facial hair, must be clean and neatly groomed. Long hair must be tied back during patient care.
- Perfume and cologne can cause nausea or provoke an allergic reaction in some individuals and are not recommended.

White Coats:

- White coats should be clean and pressed.
- Use your judgement about wearing a lab coat, as in some clinical settings, it may create an unnecessary barrier between you and your patients.
- White coats should be removed before leaving the hospital.

Scrubs:

- Scrubs are the property of the hospital and you are not to wear them when outside the hospital.