

Appropriate Dress

Some patients have biases and expectations regarding their physician's attire and behaviour. There is medical literature showing that patients do judge physicians on the basis of attire. Although these beliefs may be unfounded and irrational, the time to assail these prejudices is not when that person is already frightened and ill. Likewise, relatives and friends of your patient in their time of concern and worry should not have to cope with physician behaviour that they perceive to be unprofessional. In general, conservative attire is most appropriate.

Accordingly, the following code **MUST** be followed:

ON THE WARDS - no blue jeans, no shorts, no T-shirts.

IN THE OUTPATIENT AREA - no blue jeans, no shorts, no T-shirts. You will also be expected to respect the preferences of your preceptor.

WHITE COATS are generally expected to be worn on all rotations.

If you are unsure whether something is acceptable it is best to check with your preceptor.