

**UNIFORM POLICY AND DRESS CODE
OMAHA DIVISION**

1. **PURPOSE:** To outline Nursing Service policies governing proper attire for Nursing personnel.
2. **POLICY:**

Uniforms for nursing employees are one of the following:

- a. Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses:
 - 1) Direct Care Nursing Staff:
 - a) Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses will wear solid black uniform pants with a complimentary top. No “Cartoon Characters” are permitted.
 - b) A knit top or turtleneck sweater may be worn under the uniform or scrub top for added warmth.
 - c) Appropriate solid colored tee Shirts with the Unit Designation
 - c) Colored or Patterned (no Cartoon characters) warm-up jackets.
 - d) Enclosed shoes.
 - 2) Procedural areas:
 - a) Scrub suits, warm up jackets – hospital issued/laundered
 - b) When leaving the area for patient services, a white lab coat is to be worn over scrubs or street clothes are to be worn.
 - 3) Nurse clinical Specialists, Clinical Coordinators, Infection Control Nurse, Advance Practice RN’s, while providing direct physical care or supervision: same as registered nurses, or street clothes with white lab coat.
 - 4) Psychiatric Nurses and Psychiatric Clinical Specialist: Appropriate street clothes should be worn at all times. The following items are excluded from the definition of appropriate: "grubbies", see-through fabrics, midriff

or low cut tops and floor length skirts or dresses. Note also general information items which apply to all areas.

- 5) Associate Director, Patient Care Services, Nursing Directors, Nurse Managers: same as registered nurse or street clothes. Lab coat is optional.
- 6) Omaha VA Medical Center name badge with first and last name or first name with title must be worn at all times. Wearing of professional pin and/or cap is optional.

b. Nursing Assistants & Dialysis Technicians:

- 1) Uniforms furnished for females and males or Navy blue colored scrubs, purchased and laundered by the employee.
- 2) White, brown or black shoes with white or brown hose/socks (female) or white or dark socks (male).
- 3) Omaha VA Medical Center name badge must be worn at all times.
- 4) Psychiatric Nursing Assistants: May wear hospital uniform or street clothes.

c. General Information and Procedure:

- 1) Shoes: No wooden soles or metal taps because of noise and safety.
- 2) Lab Coats: Lab coats may be furnished and laundered by hospital laundry.
- 3) Street Clothes: Uniform allowance will be waived by Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses wearing street clothes or protective clothing furnished by the hospital. Amount will be based on percentage of working time street clothes are worn.
- 4) Beards and mustaches should be neat and clean.
- 5) Grooming of hair and nails should be appropriate to the uniform. Artificial nails are not permitted for direct care staff.
- 6) Jewelry should be appropriate to uniform and kept to a minimum.
- 7) Attire should be clean (laundered by employee unless otherwise stated), neatly ironed and appropriately fitting.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES: All nursing staff are responsible for following this policy.
4. REFERENCES:
Center for Disease Control, Hand Hygiene 2006.
5. RESCISSION:
NWIHCS/Omaha Division, Memorandum PCS-122, dated March 2010
6. DATE OF COMPLETE REISSUANCE:
January 2011
7. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:
EILEEN KINGSTON, RN
CHIEF NURSE EXECUTIVE, NWIHCS
8. NEEDED CONCURRENCES:
PATIENT CARE SERVICES
AFGE 2270 (OM)
9. KEY WORDS:
DRESS CODE
UNIFORM POLICY