



Dress Code for Students in Clinical Placements

NHS Fife expects all staff and medical students to adopt the standards we set for conduct, dress and appearance. The way staff and students dress sends messages about their professionalism and standards of care to service users, carers, colleagues and members of the public.

The following guidance is not meant to be exhaustive but provides a quick framework for students to follow. It is in keeping with NHS Fife Dress Code and Uniform Policy (2017) which aims to ensure that all involved in care delivery maintain safety, convey a professional image and instill and maintain public confidence.

As students learning within a practice environment, you are expected to follow this guidance at all times during hospital or community based placements and also within a simulated clinical environment.

- Wear your identity badge that confirms you are a student.
- Dress in a discreet and professional manner to convey a professional image and create and maintain public confidence. Denim jeans, short skirts or revealing tops which expose large areas of flesh are not appropriate clothing to wear.
- Wear appropriate footwear (clean, soft soled, closed toe shoes). Trainers or excessively high heels should not be worn.
- Tattoos that could be considered offensive should be covered where this does not compromise good clinical practice.
- Keep hair tied back and off the collar.
- Arms should be **'bare below the elbow'**. Long sleeves should be rolled up. Wristwatches, fitness tracker wrist-straps and bracelets must not be worn when in clinical areas.
- Jewellery is restricted to wearing one plain metal finger ring and one pair of plain stud earrings. Any other visible body piercings should be removed.
- Keep finger nails short and clean. No nail varnish, false nails or nail extensions should be worn.
- White coats, neck ties or lanyards should not be worn.
- Pens or scissors should not be carried in outside breast pockets.
- Store your stethoscope in a safe place such as your pocket or in your bag when moving between clinical areas or during breaks. Stethoscopes should not be worn around the neck.