

Infection Safety and Personal Attire

DRAFT

There are many questions raised regarding the contribution of attire to nosocomial infection rates. IP&C did a review of current Infection Prevention and Control Standards from Canada, USA and UK. It is recommended that the following be adopted for LHSC and SJHC.

Nails:

For staff providing care of patients involving patient contact

1. Fingernails should be kept clean and neat and the nail should not show past the end of the finger.
2. Fingernail polish should be free of cracks or chips.
3. Rings should be limited to a smooth wedding band
4. Artificial nails and nail enhancements must not be worn.

Clothing:

1. Staff should wear short-sleeved tops or long sleeved tops where the sleeves can be pushed back to the elbow to facilitate good hand hygiene practice. Sleeves that are loose that could become contaminated when providing care should not be worn.
2. Neckties should be tucked into a shirt **or removed** to avoid dangling when providing patient care
3. Lanyards should be discouraged but if worn should be **removed**, put behind your back or tucked in while providing patient care.
4. Change uniform or clothes if they become visibly soiled or contaminated.
5. Avoid use of isolation gowns except for PPE use

It is recommended that the Influencer Model be used to explore strategies to achieve compliance success in the above recommendations (see attached)

The following key groups will be consulted to seek initial input into the above recommendations with the following accountability:

MAC's	Gillian Kernaghan
Nursing Councils	Karen Perkin and Kathleen Ledoux
IPPLCs	Karen Perkin and Kathleen Ledoux
CSL	Gillian Kernaghan or Sandra Letton
Occupational Health	Gillian Kernaghan
IP&C	Gillian Kernaghan

The following questions will be asked for input:

- Do you have any concerns with the above recommendations?
- What would be required to achieve compliance success?

INFLUENCER MODEL

Vital behaviours: Hands meet the appropriate standards for Infection Safety
 Clothing does not increase the potential for spread of infection

	MOTIVATION	ABILITY
SELF	Staff understanding of potential contribution to patient infections	Staff education to understand standards for hands and clothing
SOCIAL		Make nail polish remover available on clinical units.
STUCTURAL		<p>Process to allow staff with soiled clothing or uniform to access greens for the balance of their shift</p> <p>Secure place for staff to store jewellery if accidentally worn to work</p> <p>Avoid distribution of lanyards at customer service</p> <p>Explore more secure belt clip.</p>

Note:

There is no conclusive evidence that uniforms or work clothes pose a significant hazard in terms of spreading infection. There is no evidence to suggest that home laundering is inferior to commercial processing of uniforms or that it presents a hazard in terms of cross contamination of other items in the wash-load. There is no evidence that suggests there is a risk to the public to have staff wear uniforms coming and going from work.

Aug 18, 2009 (gk)