

Bulletin

News from inside the Scottish Government Health Directorates



The new NHSScotland Staff Uniform

Simplified design manufactured in an innovative fabric.
Simple colour coding to promote a professional image.
Simpler for patients and the public to identify staff.
Simply better.

NHSScotland staff work in challenging roles, delivering a first-class service to the people of Scotland. Our staff deserve a uniform that's fit for the demanding jobs that they do and the new national uniform has been specifically designed with your needs in mind.

The uniform which has been specifically designed for NHSScotland will be manufactured in a lighter, more comfortable fabric. It will be cool enough for the hospital environment and in terms of comfort it will stretch to allow bending and freedom of movement. An improved style and fit will also make it more appropriate for manual handling needs.

The new national uniform, which has been designed in consultation with the staff who will wear them has been tested for wearability. It consists of a range of tunics, polo shirts and trousers which will be available in a wide range of sizes and lengths, including maternity sizes.

The main uniform set will be in shades of blue for clinical staff involved in patient treatment. Facilities staff including Porters, Catering and Domestic staff will wear two shades of green with navy trousers.

Uniforms are now available for NHS Boards to order. The first uniforms will start to appear in health settings by December 2009. All NHSScotland staff who currently wear a uniform will be required to wear the new uniform by the end of 2012.

For more details on the new uniform visit:
www.scotland.gov.uk/nationaluniform



The Best. Dressed.

The National Uniform policy provides detailed guidance to NHS Boards on the new national uniform set

www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2009_36.pdf

Additional guidance to assist NHS Boards in ordering the appropriate national uniform for particular staff groups is detailed in the accompanying NHSScotland Chief Executive's Letter

www.sehd.scot.nhs.uk/mels/CEL2009_46.pdf

All NHS Boards will manage their own process for purchasing and phasing in the new uniform and staff should continue wearing their current uniform until they are issued with a new one.

The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing will launch the National Uniform contract at the new Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow on 9 December 2009.



Work is underway to finalise arrangements for the national uniform for Pharmacy Technicians, Healthcare Scientists, Dental Care Professionals and Admin & Clerical staff.

It is anticipated that uniforms for these staff groups will be agreed and available to order from April 2010.

Why change?

A recent review found that the majority of patients had great difficulty in identifying uniformed members of staff. It said that the variations in the style and colour of uniforms across regions, and sometimes in hospitals within the same region, created confusion. This isn't surprising considering NHS Boards have been using 250 different styles of tunics in more than 100 different colours.



The new colour-coded national uniform will present a professional corporate image for NHSScotland making it easier for patients and the public to recognise and identify the appropriate member of staff.

Key facts and features of the new uniform

- The new national uniform has been designed in consultation with the NHS staff who will wear them.
- The uniform set consists of tunics and trousers. Polo shirts may be available depending on local policy, however staff who have previously worn a tunic will continue to do so.
- The new uniform has been developed for all clinical and non-clinical staff and it is available in a wide range of sizes and lengths, including maternity wear.
- The NHSScotland logo will be embroidered on all tunics and polo shirts and Allied Health Professions will have their professional role embroidered on their uniform.
- Staff who do not currently wear a uniform for a range of safety, clinical and other reasons will not be required to wear the national uniform.
- The new uniforms are made from high quality material which has been specifically designed and manufactured for NHSScotland. It is lighter and more flexible than existing uniforms, and are more appropriate for staff needs.
- The new uniform will be phased in by all NHS Boards by the end of 2012 and will start to appear in health setting by December 2009.

