

Bulletin

News from inside the Scottish Government Health Directorates



The new uniform will be:

- Modern and more comfortable
- Manufactured in a lighter material
- Consistent across NHSScotland
- Easier for patients to identify staff



NHSScotland New Staff Uniform

Did you know that around 70,000 staff in NHSScotland wear a uniform and that we currently purchase around 250 different types of tunic styles in over 150 different colours?

In November 2007, a Scottish Government Uniform Working Group was established to develop proposals for a new simplified NHSScotland staff uniform for staff who currently wear a uniform. After considering the results from wearer trials, the outcomes of independent research and the various fabric samples the working group has now recommended a new uniform set for nurses, allied health professionals, catering, domestic, portering and security staff. Uniform options for other staff groups are still under consideration.

It was felt important to get the views of these proposals from staff, the public, patients and various stakeholder groups and a six week public consultation, which received 647 responses firmly endorsed the principle of a national uniform for NHSScotland.

A new national uniform set for the aforementioned staff groups has now been approved by the Scottish Government National Uniform Group and the Scottish Workforce and Governance Committee. It has also been endorsed by the Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing. The process for awarding the contract for producing the final garments is currently underway. The new uniform will be phased in from Autumn 2009.

As well as helping to promote the NHSScotland corporate image, the new simplified uniform will be practical and cost effective and the design and colours will help patients and other members of the public to easily identify NHS staff.

For more details on the outcome of the consultation and the new uniform set visit:

www.scotland.gov.uk/nationaluniform



Proposed National Uniform Set

A new NHSScotland uniform has been agreed for:

- nurses
- allied health professionals
- catering staff
- domestic staff
- portering staff
- security staff

Uniform options for all other staff groups are being considered.

Uniforms for all staff groups will be available from Autumn 2009.

Key dates

11 November 2008

Procurement tender issued

27 February 2009

Supplier contract awarded

Autumn 2009

Contract commences - uniforms available for NHS Boards to purchase

2012

All new uniforms to be phased in by 2012

The new national uniform set has now been agreed for the following groups :

Clinical staff

Charge nurses

Navy blue tunic or polo shirt

Registered nursing staff

Cornflower blue tunic or polo shirt

Allied Health Professionals

Mediterranean blue tunic or polo shirt

Unregistered staff

Pale sky blue tunic or polo shirt

AHPs will have their professional role embroidered on their tunic



Non-clinical staff

Catering & domestic supervisors

Dark Green tunic or polo shirt

Catering & domestic staff

Green tunic or polo shirt

Porters

Green polo shirt or white shirt/blouse

Security Guards

White shirt and clip on tie with military style jumper or black t-shirt and stab vest



- The actual material colours may differ from the above.
- The tunic is unisex and it will be available in a wide range of size. It will also include tall and petite lengths.
- Navy trousers will be worn with all uniforms, with the exception of security staff who will wear black trousers. The trousers will include tall and petite lengths.
- Polo shirts will be available according to local policy.

Uniform features

The new uniform will be manufactured in a lighter and 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. It has a better style and fit and is appropriate for manual handling needs.

The new uniform will also be suitable for the community environment. A full range of outer garments, including jackets, cardigans etc will also be available as part of the new contract.

More information about the new uniform specification and more details on each garment can be found at: www.scotland.gov.uk/nationaluniform

Uniforms for all staff groups will be available for NHS Boards to purchase from Autumn 2009. The new uniform will be phased in with a requirement for all staff to wear the new uniform by 2012.