

MGH Physical and Occupational Therapy Services

Clinical Education Program

Career Exploration Observation: Goals and Eligibility

MGH PT and OT Services has developed an observation program for individuals who are in the process of career exploration in the disciplines of physical and occupational therapy.

Goals of the Program:

Provide exposure to the professions of PT and OT to individuals in career exploration in the following areas:

- What does the clinical environment look like?
- How does a therapist get to know patients and gain their trust?
- How does a therapist collect information and use this data to make decisions?
- What types of treatment are offered to patients undergoing PT and OT?
- What is the therapist's role in patient education?
- How do team members of the team work together to provide care for the patient?

Additionally, observers are invited to have lunch with staff and talk with them about various educational programs and the process of achieving a professional degree in PT or OT.

Who Is Eligible for this Observational experience?

- Individuals who are considering a career in PT or OT who are at least 16 years of age
- Individuals who are applying to PT or OT school and need observation hours

Who is **NOT** Eligible for this Observational Experience?

- Individuals who are already matriculated into the professional portions of a PT or OT program
- Individuals who are not 16 AND a junior in High School

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Career Exploration Observation: Program Structure and Application Process

Structure:

Observation Time Frame: Each observer spends a total of 8 hours split between the Inpatient and Outpatient Services of the PT or OT Department. The hours of observation are 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Each observer is assigned to one therapist for the morning inpatient session and moves between several therapists on the outpatient afternoon session.

These sessions are offered on weekdays only; we do have observers on the weekends.

Our observation sessions are offered several times per month, not every day.

Process:

Complete the required Forms: (contained in the observer forms folder)

- Observer Questionnaire
- Health Screening
- Confidentiality Form

Email these forms to Katie Farraher: kfarraher@partners.org

Following receipt of the forms, Katie will contact you to arrange a time for you to observe.

**Massachusetts General Hospital
Physical and Occupational Therapy Services
Policy & Procedure Manual**

Title:	Dress Code: Clinical Staff_PT_OT	
Source:	Physical & Occupational Therapy Services Policy & Procedure Manual	
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Policy Issue Date:	08/2003	Revised: 09/2016
Approval:	Director, Physical & Occupational Therapy Services	

**Physical & Occupational Therapy Services
Dress Code: Clinical Staff**

Purpose: To define the appropriate professional presentation for the clinical staff of MGH PT & OT Services.

Cancellation: This policy replaces all previous statements prior to the date above (in policy header).

Statement:

All health care providers of MGH Physical and Occupational Therapy Services are required to wear appropriate professional apparel. The appropriateness of the attire is determined, in part, by applicable laws and regulations concerning proper identification, infection control and safety. In addition, healthcare personnel recognize that medical personnel, who project professional images through attention to details of their appearance, instill confidence in their patients that they will provide the same, careful attention to their patients' care. Therefore, the therapeutic alliance must be secured before initial verbal interaction has occurred. As a member of Physical and Occupational Therapy Services you should place the patient's needs first even if this necessitates curtailing some aspects of your individual expression. Finally, professional dress is contextual and should reflect the culture of the environment.

Personnel will present a neat, clean, and professional appearance that promotes a client-focused environment and distinguishes staff as members of the MGH PT & OT Services, by incorporating the following practices:

- MGH identification badges must be worn above the waist, clearly visible to others.
- Jewelry must be kept to a minimum (no long, dangling earrings and necklaces during direct patient care). Staff should be prepared to remove jewelry from piercings while at work.
- Tattoos, when present, should be discrete. Staff may be asked to cover tattoos.
- Long hair (hair longer than the top of shoulders) must be fully tied back appropriately to prevent interference during direct patient care
- Fingernails: Consistent with MGH fingernail policy: artificial nails or nail jewelry may not be worn. Natural nails must be well maintained and be clean and short (no longer than ¼). If nail polish is worn, clear polish is preferred to allow for better visualization of the under-nail area, thereby contributing to more effective hand hygiene. Nail polish must be maintained regularly so that it is not cracked, chipped, or scratched.
- Refrain from use of perfume and cologne.
- Do not chew gum in during direct patient care or in patient care areas.
- No eating or drinking in front of patients or in patient care areas.

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All professional staff, students, and interns must follow these guidelines for professional attire during working hours (including week-ends and Holidays).

Supportive, closed-toe footwear

Pants or skirts which allow for necessary job-related movements:

- Ankle length pants and trousers
- No jeans, cargo pants, capris, cropped pants, cut-offs or athletic clothing (sweatpants, running pants, jeggings).
- Pants need to be hemmed so they do not drag on the floor
- Skirts must be of reasonable length and style to allow freedom of movement even during unexpected aspects of your workday.

Shirts or blouses which allow for necessary job-related movements.

- Men: Collared shirts and ties.
- Women: Shirts or blouses must provide sufficient coverage to ensure that both the midriff and back are covered during job-related movements. No low cut or clinging shirts, sweaters or blouses.

Lab Coat or Fleece vest/jacket:

- All PT and OT Services personnel who have direct contact with patients are supplied with lab coats through the MGH linen system. Lab coats may be laundered by the MGH linen department or laundered at home with hot water.
- All PT and OT Services staff must wear a lab coat when representing the department or attending a meeting outside of the Department.
- Lab coats are the preferred dress when providing patient care in outpatient areas and Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy Staff must wear lab coats for initial evaluations.
- Outpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy may opt not to wear a lab coat when providing care to specific populations and for follow-up outpatient care.
- Department approved fleece vests and jackets are not to be worn in lieu of lab coats but rather for warmth as needed in Outpatient areas
- Inpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy Staff must wear a lab coat or department approved fleece vest/jacket over their professional dress or scrub uniform.
- The department approved fleece vest/jacket should be purchased from the MGH vendor at employee's expense.
- The fleece vest/jacket must be frequently laundered at home with hot water

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Scrub uniform: [Inpatient Physical and Occupational Therapy Staff only]

- Scrub uniforms are provided and laundered by MGH or IP staff may choose to provide and launder their own scrub uniform.
- Scrub uniform includes wearing both scrub top and bottom, in a matching color (no prints).
- Scrub pants need to be hemmed (or cuffed) so they do not drag on the floor
- A solid color t shirt may be worn under scrub uniform top
- The only clothing acceptable to be worn over scrubs is a lab coat or a department approved fleece vest.