

### **Lab Coats and Dress Code**

The UT College of Medicine Chattanooga (UTCOCM Chattanooga) has established a dress code policy for Residents\* and Medical Students that basically outlines appearance as "neat, clean, and professional." Men should wear business-type slacks with shirt and tie. Women should wear business type dress or suit, or slacks/skirt with neat blouse or top. Conservative dress shoes with socks or hose must be worn. Clean, conservative tennis or running shoes are permitted due to long work and call hours. Residents must wear the photo ID badges issued from Erlanger Human Resources (HR), or an official UT ID, denoting them as a Resident in a specific residency or fellowship program. UTCOCM Chattanooga has also agreed to comply with the Erlanger Professional Dress Code Policy.

Residents must wear UT-issued white lab coats. These have the UT logo monogrammed and denote the individual's name. Each coat also indicates that the individual is a UT Resident in a specific department or program. Residents must also wear their Erlanger Photo ID badges with the personalized lab coats. Lab coats will be distributed to new Residents at New Resident Orientation. Replacement coats for returning Residents (with the UT logo and monogrammed name) will be distributed by the end of summer via the departments.

Blue scrub suits are to be worn only in restricted areas of the hospital (ICU, Labor and Delivery, operating rooms, etc.) and are not to be worn outside these areas. Violations of this policy can lead to infection control problems as well as depleting the hospital's supplies of scrub suits for the operating rooms and ICU areas. Erlanger's dress code policy does not allow any employee to leave the hospital in scrub suits. Scrubs are distributed via ScrubEX machines in several locations within the hospital. Photo ID badges issued from Erlanger HR have a unique embedded bar code that interfaces with the ScrubEX machines. Residents are allocated a specific number of scrubs available at one time depending upon their specialties. Soiled scrubs must be returned to the ScrubEX machines before clean ones can be issued.

Medical Students follow the same dress code as do Residents with a small difference -- they wear the short, white lab jackets. UT Medical Students are required to have the UT Medical Student patch denoting their status as well as continuing to wear the Erlanger Photo ID badge which further indicates their student status.

Both Residents and Medical Students are responsible for laundering their own coats and jackets. Erlanger does not provide laundry service.

**Notes:**

1. Per the Erlanger Infection Prevention requirements, Residents, Medical Students, and Faculty are asked to remember “Bare below the elbows” for direct patient care.
  - Sleeves should be rolled above the elbows
  - Lab coat or lab jacket sleeves should be rolled above the elbows
  - Neckties should be tucked inside your shirt
  - Remove watch or bracelets.
  
2. We recognize that there are times when public health situations dictate special precautionary measures adhering to CDC and county health department guidelines such as those during the COVID-19 Pandemic. In these situations, all Faculty, Residents, Fellows, Medical Students, and administrative staff must adhere to Erlanger requirements regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE such as N95 masks and goggles or face shields). All UT employees and those holding faculty appointments must adhere to Erlanger requirements for stipulated PPE to be worn when involved in clinical care, and/or administrative requirements such as mandatory masks when entering hospital buildings and/or when gathering for meetings or conferences -- even in small groups less than ten.

\*The term “Resident” refers to both Resident and Fellow trainees.

Revised and Approved by the GMEC 5/16/2017. Administrative edits 6/19/2020.