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Dress Code - Professional Appearance Guidelines	

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POLICY:

The professional appearance and conduct of our employees and contract staff are important parts of the experience for patients, their families, and visitors in clinical and non-clinical areas. This policy provides expectations and guidelines for dress, personal appearance and behavior for employees, contract staff, and other individuals working at Kaweah Health. This helps to ensure that our patients feel welcomed, respected, comfortable, and safe.

Kaweah Health observes religious dress and grooming practices including wearing religious clothing or articles (e.g., a headscarf, turban); observing a religious prohibition against wearing certain garments (e.g., woman's practice of not wearing pants or skirts), or adhering to shaving or hair length observances, (e.g., uncut hair and beard, dreadlocks, or sidelocks).

PROCEDURE:

All individuals working at Kaweah Health affect the overall image of patients, visitors, and the community. In addition, individuals are required to present a professional healthcare appearance and dress according to the requirements of this policy as well as adhere to their department-specific or job-specific dress standards.

Kaweah Health has established the following criteria for personal appearance. These criteria are for meeting our customers' and the community's expectations and the image of what they expect of healthcare providers and administrative department personnel.

The following applies while at work and not at work if wearing any article that indicates "Kaweah Health," or Kaweah Health ID badge:

- a. Employees and contract staff are required to wear the official Kaweah Health ID badge at all times while on duty. The ID badge must be worn so that the picture and name can be seen and must be chest high or above. No marks, stickers (other than flu vaccine compliance), etc., or membership pins may be on the badge; it must include a current picture and not be faded or worn). Kaweah Health recognition pins may be attached to the badge extender. If an employee or contract staff member is visiting Kaweah Health while not on duty, they are not to wear their ID badge, nor represent that they are on duty; they may not perform any

work. At the option of an employee, the badge may include only the first name and initial of last name.

- b. Attire must be neat, clean, appropriately fitting, matched, and coordinated and have a professional or business-like appearance. Scrubs must be appropriately fitting as well, neither too large nor too tight; pants may not touch the ground. Scrub leggings are not permitted. Scrub jackets branded with another organization's name or logo (including health care or a hospital) are prohibited.
1. Revealing clothing (such as see-through or showing cleavage), dresses, and skirts must not be shorter than three (3) inches above the knee. Sundresses, inappropriate length dresses or mini-skirts, bare-back dresses, halter tops, tank tops, t-shirts, any denim color or denim appearing material, leggings, scrub leggings, unprofessional casual Capri pants with strings or cargo pockets, shorts or walking-shorts, army fatigue-print clothing are some examples of inappropriate attire. T-Shirts/Tops that expose chest hair are not allowed. Sleeveless attire is appropriate as long as it is business professional. "Hoodies" or hooded jackets of any kind are not permitted; team jackets are to be approved by a manager.
 2. Those employees who work in departments that are exposed to the outside elements may wear hats while outside.
 3. Tattoos may be visible if the images or words do not convey violence, discrimination, profanity, or sexually explicit content. Tattoos containing such messages must be covered with bandages, clothing, or cosmetics. Kaweah Health reserves the right to judge the appearance of visible tattoos. However, tattoos that are visible on the front neck area above the collar line and the face must be covered.
 4. Hickeys can be considered offensive, unprofessional, and distracting in nature, and must be covered by clothing or Band-Aids.
 5. Excessive jewelry and watches that may affect safe patient care or violate infection control standards, multiple ear piercings, or body piercings are not allowed. Ear expanders must be plugged with a flesh color plug. Only pin-size nose adornment and/or small nose rings/hoops are acceptable. Septum piercings and jewelry under the nose are prohibited.
 6. Shoes are to be worn as appropriate for the position and must be clean, in good repair, and meet the safety and noise abatement requirements of Kaweah Health environment. Open-toed shoes may not be worn in patient care areas by those providing direct patient care. Socks are to be worn as appropriate for the position, (i.e. with Croc-type shoes that have holes). Closed-toe shoes are required in the patient care areas and other areas in

which safety requires closed-toe shoes. Casual type thong, flip-flops, and locker room sandals (even with back straps) are not acceptable. Dressy type sandals or open-toed shoes with a back strap are acceptable when safety does not dictate otherwise. Tennis shoes are acceptable to wear. They must be neat, clean and appropriate. High heels greater than three (3) inches, wedges, and platform shoes are not safe in our work environment at Kaweah Health and may not be worn.

7. Hair is to be kept neat and clean. Unnatural hair color is acceptable; extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Employees with long hair who have direct patient contact or work with food or machinery must have their hair pinned up off the shoulders, secured at the nape of the neck, or secured in a hair net. Traits historically associated with race or religion including, but not limited to, hair length, hair texture, and protective hairstyles, defined as braids, locks, and twists are allowed and must be secured. Beards, mustaches, and sideburns must be clean and neat at all times.
8. Kaweah Health is fragrance-free due to allergies that present themselves with colognes, perfumes, aftershave lotions, hand lotions, etc. Body odor, smell of cigarette/e- cigarette/tobacco smoke, or excessive makeup are examples of unacceptable personal grooming.
9. Fingernails: Employees who have direct contact with patients (those employees who touch patients as a part of their job description) and those indirectly involved in patient care, such as Pharmacy, Housekeeping, Laboratory, and Sterile Processing must comply with the following guidelines. Some departments (i.e. Food and Nutrition Services) may have specific requirements that vary:
 - a. Nails must be kept clean, short, and natural.
 - b. Artificial nails, acrylics, or other artificial materials (including nail jewelry) applied over the nails are prohibited. These are dried grinded nail products (acrylics or gels).
 - c. Nail or Gel Polish is permissible in most areas if used in good taste, with non-shocking colors or decor, and is maintained without chips or cracks. Polish is not allowed in Food and Nutrition Services.
 - d. Nails should not be visible when holding the palm side of the hand up.

Non-direct caregivers (those employees without “hands-on” patient contact) must comply, as follows:

- i. Nails (including artificial) must be kept clean and neatly trimmed or filed.
 - ii. Short nail length is defined as the white nail tip no greater than 1/4 inch.
 - iii. Polish is permissible if used in good taste, with non-shocking colors or decor, and is maintained without chips or cracks.
10. Employees who are required to wear certain uniform-type attire must comply with the requirements set forth by their department head or Kaweah Health, within the following guidelines: attire limited to a general color of fabric (i.e., dark, solid colors), business style jackets/blazers, white shirts/blouses, and/or black shoes. Any other attire required by

Kaweah Health will be provided to the employee at no cost.

11. Employees attending Kaweah Health staff meetings on Kaweah Health premises may wear casual and appropriate attire. It would be inappropriate to wear shorts, gym-wear, tank tops, or anything similar. Jeans are appropriate as long as they are not frayed and torn. Employees must be modestly dressed. Employees attending on-site classes or other meetings are to wear office-casual attire, scrubs, or street clothes in good taste. Kaweah Health employees and contract staff are not permitted to present in any way that would appear unprofessional to Kaweah Health leadership.
12. Kaweah Health promotes organization-wide events and may allow Kaweah Health to provide t-shirts for these days. These are allowed if appropriate for the employees' work environment. With the exception of specific areas where scrubs are laundered (i.e. Cath Lab, CVOR, OR, NICU, L&D) Kaweah Health does not provide or launder scrubs or uniforms for employees, unless the garments are provided by Kaweah Health and requires dry-cleaning. However, employees who have received a splash of blood or body fluid during the normal course of their job need to change into clothing for protection. Per Standard Precautions, employees are allowed to wear Kaweah Health-provided scrubs or uniforms furnished by Kaweah Health laundry. These are to be returned to Kaweah Health at the next shift worked. Upon arriving at and leaving from work, employees are provided with reasonable paid time to change. An employee may not wear these scrubs to and from Kaweah Health or outside of the hospital unless it is for work-related business (i.e. Employee Health, Human Resources, and Employee Pharmacy) and they must wear a white lab coat over the scrubs. Upon returning to the department, personnel must change into fresh scrubs before returning to the semi-restricted or restricted areas. Refer to Policy SS4000.
13. The responsibility to determine the appropriateness of employee appearance and attire and for enforcing uniform/dress code requirements rests with leadership. For example, the Behavioral Health departments may allow exceptions to this policy as appropriate to their patient care population. Employees who fail to follow personal appearance and hygiene guidelines will be sent home and instructed to return to work in proper form. Under such circumstances, employees will not be compensated for the time away from work.

Employees who violate this policy are subject to progressive discipline per HR.216 Progressive Discipline.

“Responsibility for the review and revision of this Policy is assigned to the Chief of Human Resources Officer. In some cases, such as Employee Benefits Policies, Summary Plan Descriptions and Plan Documents prevail over a policy. In all cases, Kaweah Health will follow Federal and State Law, as applicable, as well as Regulatory requirements. Policies are subject to change as approved by the Governing Board and will be communicated as approved after each Board Meeting. It is the employee’s responsibility to review and understand all Kaweah Health Policies and Procedures.”