

**MIDVALE CBC COMMUNITY CLINIC PHYSICAL THERAPY**  
*PROFESSIONAL DRESS & CONDUCT POLICY*

***NOTE: These policies have been adapted from and are consistent with those policies outlined in the Clinical Education Program Policies put forth by the University of Utah Department of Physical Therapy.***

**APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR:**

Students are expected to adhere to:

- the University of Utah Department of Physical Therapy, Student Code of Professional Responsibility ([http://www.health.utah.edu/pt/current/Student\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.health.utah.edu/pt/current/Student_Handbook.pdf)),
- the APTA Code of Ethics ([http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About\\_Us/Policies/Ethics/CodeofEthics.pdf](http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/Ethics/CodeofEthics.pdf)),
- the APTA Guide for Professional Conduct ([http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Practice\\_and\\_Patient\\_Care/Ethics/GuideforProfessionalConduct.pdf](http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/Practice_and_Patient_Care/Ethics/GuideforProfessionalConduct.pdf)),
- the APTA Professionalism Core Values ([http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About\\_Us/Policies/Judicial\\_Legal/ProfessionalismCoreValues.pdf](http://www.apta.org/uploadedFiles/APTAorg/About_Us/Policies/Judicial_Legal/ProfessionalismCoreValues.pdf)).

In addition to the above, the following are specific guidelines for professional conduct in the clinic:

- Arrive on time, and do not leave until all clinic closing duties have been completed.
- Use free time in the clinic constructively and wisely (see “downtime duties” checklist in Clinic Reference Manual)
- Accept and contribute constructive suggestions/feedback in a professional manner when interacting with attending PTs, other student PTs, Community Building Community (CBC) staff, and any board members present.
- In general, therapists may not accept gifts or gratuities offered by patients, families, caregivers or vendors. If any such gifts or gratuities are offered, they should be reported to the attending PT and handled on a case by case basis.
- Students should avoid chewing gum while treating patients. According to OSHA standards, no food should be in patient care areas or eaten while treating patients.
- Asking questions of the clinical instructor will not only facilitate your learning, but will ensure patient safety and quality care. Be sure to check in with the attending PT at required checkpoints during all patient visits (see Training Manual). Be discrete about questions asked in front of the patient, and reserve all questions regarding prognosis for when the patient is not present.
- Strict adherence to the ethical standards, which protect the patients' confidence, is required. Do not discuss your patients' condition(s) outside the clinical setting. Patients may be discussed with classmates and faculty for educational purposes but avoid identifying them by name (see related HIPAA guidelines regarding de-identification of patient records).
- Attention to common courtesy is essential in the clinical setting. Communication of respect, your display of good listening skills and sensitive verbal communications will be helpful in promoting productive working relationships with your clinical supervisors and peers.

### **APPROPRIATE CLINICAL PROFESSIONAL DRESS:**

As a representative of the University of Utah Department of Physical Therapy, student volunteers are required to wear **appropriate professional attire AND your student name tag** during any/all clinic-related events (including patient care, promotional events, etc.). Attire should be *comfortable* and *non-restrictive* to allow for movement as necessary during patient care while maintaining a conservative modesty. Examples of appropriate clinic attire include:

- Tops: any sleeve length except sleeveless, professional style (ex: collared, button down, blouse, polo, blouse), generally tailored fit and good quality/condition
  - **NO scrubs!**
  - **NOTE: professional shirts, polos, etc. with the University of Utah logo ARE acceptable and encouraged**
- Pants: classic tailored slacks/pants/trousers, khakis, corduroys
  - **NO denim or scrubs!**
- Shoes: any closed-toe variety of business professional shoes in good/clean condition, modest heels
  - **NO open-toe shoes of any kind OR high heels!**
- **NO hats!**
- Grooming/Hygiene:
  - Must practice personal hygiene and be free of offensive odor.
  - Hair must be neat and clean (as well as tied back if long to avoid patient contact during care).
  - Facial hair should be neatly trimmed and maintained.
  - Fingernails must be clean and neatly trimmed- **no long nails (fake OR natural)!**

For additional examples or further clarification, refer to Section 23 (Appropriate Clinical Professional Dress) of the University of Utah Department of Physical Therapy Clinical Education Policies.