

# Patients care about the clothes doctors wear

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(HealthDay)—Patients do in fact care what doctors wear, according to a study recently published in *BMJ Open*.

Christopher M. Petrilli, M.D., from the VA Ann Arbor Healthcare System in Michigan, and colleagues conducted a survey among a convenience sample of 4,062 patients recruited from 10 [academic medical centers](#) between June 2015 and October 2016. The authors sought to determine whether physician attire can affect the [patient experience](#) and how this influences patient satisfaction.

The researchers found that 53 percent of respondents indicated that physician attire was important to them during care, with more than one-third agreeing that it influenced their satisfaction with care. Formal attire with a [white coat](#) was most highly rated ( $P = 0.001$  versus scrubs with white coat and  $P$

"Patients have important expectations and perceptions for physician dress that vary by context and region," the authors write. "Nuanced policies addressing physician dress code to improve [patient satisfaction](#) appear important."

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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