



Supply Chain

# NHS Healthcare Uniforms

Our Project Values



# Patient and Visitor Engagement

This initiative promises future-proofing benefits and an enhanced professional identity for our dedicated workforce.

The updated uniform brings comfort and clarity to our patients, service users, and visitors. Navigating the healthcare landscape can be overwhelming, especially during challenging circumstances.

By adopting the NHS Healthcare Uniform, trusts can help facilitate better recognition and understanding.



# Professional Image and Suitability

The new uniform was developed with continuous input from NHS trusts across England and professional bodies such as the The Royal College of Nursing and crucially end users. The NHS National Healthcare Uniform strikes a balance between modern design and functionality. The design has evolved throughout the life of the project incorporating feedback from colleagues who have trialled the uniform in situ.

The new design incorporates measures which have been evaluated to ensure they meet durability requirements, are a comfortable weight and offer breathability and manoeuvrability. The garments are offered in an extended range of sizes and lengths and includes a full maternity range.



# Value for Money

This process has resulted in an average cost saving of around 30% (based on the comparison of a nationally averaged cost for existing uniforms). This could equate to a potential saving of over £10 million across the NHS in England.

If this uniform is adopted by the majority of trusts in England the additional benefits of this standardisation could result in staff transferring between trusts no longer requiring new uniforms, further reducing expenditure.

By engaging with our Implementation and Adoption team, each trust can access our bespoke financial tool to establish the exact impact on their budget. This tool requires only the number of staff, current uniform costs, and allocation rate to compute the potential savings.



# Sustainability

The new NHS Healthcare Uniform incorporates cotton from the Better Cotton Initiative (BCI). BCI is a global, non-profit organisation that promotes sustainable cotton farming practices worldwide. BCI cotton refers to cotton produced under the guidelines and standards set by the BCI which focus on making cotton farming more sustainable and ethical. In addition, the uniform will use 100 per cent recycled polyester content reducing the need for raw petroleum-based materials providing a clear example of carbon reduction.

Awarded suppliers will support trusts to recycle redundant uniforms when they have reached the end of their lifespan and have created solutions to help minimise the use of single-use packaging. The reduced demand for new uniforms, coupled with the recycling of redundant ones where possible, provides the opportunity to reduce environmental burdens on our communities.



# Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

Our new NHS Healthcare Uniform has been designed with a universal appeal and cultural sensitivity, ensuring every member of our diverse workforce feels recognised and valued.

We've replaced traditional sizing with a non-gender-specific system (for example U1, U2, U3) empowering all individuals to choose uniforms that reflect their identities. This inclusive strategy strengthens our workforce and resonates throughout the communities we serve. This range also includes matching cultural wear, so all colleagues across the healthcare family will be able to wear it with pride.



For more information, please visit  
[www.supplychain.nhs.uk](http://www.supplychain.nhs.uk)

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