What do physical therapists wear? http://www.answerbag.com/q\_view/1937742

Great Answer

Professionally Researched.

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Professionally Researched

This great answer was researched and sourced by a professional writer, as well as copy-edited and fact checked by a professional copy-editor. This isn't a replacement for the combined knowledge of our tremendous community - it's an addition! We hope you'll find these professionally researched answers useful, and it will encourage you to ask and answer even more!

The American Physical Therapy Association describes physical therapists as experts in the diagnosis of, interventions for, and prevention of impairments, functional limitations, and disabilities related to movement, function and health.  
Physical therapists practice is many different settings and wear appropriate attire in each.

**Acute Care (Hospital)**

Physical therapists working in acute care frequently wear scrubs and sometimes a lab coat. Scrubs are [flexiblehttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://www.answerbag.com/q_view/1937742) and allow the physical therapist move about freely.  
They are also [durablehttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://www.answerbag.com/q_view/1937742) and easy to wash and usually do not require ironing.  
A physical therapist (PT) working in acute care usually keeps an extra set of scrubs available in case the scrubs they are wearing become soiled.  
PTs may cover their clothing with personal protective equipment (PPE), which include gowns, masks, gloves, face shields and shoe covers if the patient has an active infection. Comfortable shoes are advised in an acute care setting since the PT will probably be on his feet for most of the day.

**Outpatient Rehabilitation**

Working in an outpatient setting, a PT may choose to dress in more professional attire. A PT working in this setting may wear slacks and dress shirts. A tie is common and a lab coat may also be worn.

**Pediatric Rehab**

A PT working in a pediatric clinic usually wears scrubs. Frequently their scrubs are brightly colored and may have even have cartoon designs on them. Children find scrubs like these more pleasing and a little less scary. Comfortable shoes are advisable and some PTs wear slip-on shoes that are easy to remove as these therapists may be on the floor working with their patients.

**Home Health Physical Therapy**

The PT who works in the home health setting may wear scrubs or khakis and polo-type shirts. These therapists are traveling from patient home to home so they need to be dressed comfortably. Patients will have varying degrees of temperatures within their households so PTs working in this setting have to be able to adapt.

**Administrative**

Some PTs will hold managerial positions and will dress more professionally in [businesshttp://images.intellitxt.com/ast/adTypes/icon1.png](http://www.answerbag.com/q_view/1937742) attire. A business suit is the norm but in more casual environments khakis and a sport coat are acceptable. The style of dress will depend upon the company's dress code.

Source:

[American Physical Therapy Association: About APTA](http://www.apta.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=About_APTA&Template=/TaggedPage/TaggedPageDisplay.cfm&TPLID=41&ContentID=23725)

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