Revisualizing the Hospital Gown: Prioritizing Mental and Spiritual Well-Being

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Hospital gowns are often overlooked in their design, even though patients are often required and encouraged to wear them during inpatient stays. As healthcare moves forward with the Human Center Design practice, the patient’s perspective and dignity have been increasingly recognized in healthcare, making the hospital gown an opportunity to impact the well-being of the patients. In the study, the patient gown was redesigned after careful consideration of clothing on social identity and self-expression implementing the color theory and the cultural symbol. The redesigned gown prototype represents the overlooked Hmong population of Minnesota. Based on color theory, the warm yellow color is used to evoke the emotion of trust and hope. The repetition arrangement of the motifs such as the Heart (Lub plawv) and Flower or Windmill (Paj) symbolizes compassion, integrity, humility, friendship, symbolizing balance, and adaptability. Prioritizing these elements helps in potentially fostering the future gown design to make the connection with the psychological well-being of patients during the hospital stay.
Image 1. Back of the current Hospital gown.

Image 2. Front of the current Hospital gown.

Image 3. Back of the prototyped Hospital gown.

Image 4. Front of the current Hospital gown.
Image 5. Printed prototype of Hospital design.

Image 6. Print making process of heart pattern.

Image 7. Print making process of windmill pattern.

Image 8. Designed motif of Windmill on top and heart on bottom.

Image 10. Design Proceee Details.

Innovation

Understanding need of redesigning Patient gown. Compare with the white coat and patient's gown is evident that there is huge gap. Gap of request, status, representation, perception, and more important well-being. Much has been written about the symbolic function of the white coat, its implications of purity, its representation of authority and professionalism, and its role in consolidating a medical hierarchy. In contrast, the medical literature has paid almost no attention to the patient gown (Meldering and Zhao, 2014, p. 46).

Despite the known impact of clothing on social identity and self-expression, the impact of hospital clothing on patient well-being has been widely overlooked.

Libertinism

Petrichor = Physical well-being + Mental well-being + Spiritual Wellbeing

Much is done in redesigning the hospital gown: How can mental well-being and spiritual well-being be included in the for Patient’s Wellbeing. Using the forms of color therapy and culture with the aim of uplifting the overlooked community (Young Community) from Indonesia. The hospital gown was selected.

Implementation (Prototype)

Hospital gown = Physical design + Mental design (Yellow color) + Spiritual design (Blissful design)

According to the Flores nusou nusou elementa (FND) yellow has high tension and high mental energy; it’s happy, exciting, and drum color. The yellow color is a bright, cheerful, and lively color that can be used in various contexts. It can be used to convey positive emotions such as happiness, joy, and optimism. In addition, yellow is often associated with creativity and imagination, making it a good choice for designers who want to create something unique and innovative.