

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 9. Sewing process of prototyped gown.



Inspiration

Understanding need of redesigning Patient gown. Compare with the white coat and patients gown is evident that there is huge gap. Gap of respect, status, representation, perception, and most important wellbeing. 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 (Wellbery and Chan, 2014, p. 40). 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.



Ideation

Wellness = Physical wellbeing + Mental wellbeing + Spiritual Wellbeing

Much is done in redesigning the Hospital gown. How can Mental wellbeing and spiritual wellbeing be included in the for Patient's Wellbeing.

Using the lens of color theory and culture with the aim of uplifting the overlooked community (Hmong Community) from Minnesota. The Hospital gown was ideated.



Implementation (Prototype)

Hospital gown = Physical design + Mental design (Yellow color) + Spiritual design (Motifs from Hmong culture)

According to the Pleasure-arousal-dominance (PAD), Yellow has High valence and high arousal making it a happy, exciting, and alert color. It is believed that centuries ago, the Hmong used motifs and symbols to communicate with each other and tell stories about their culture and daily life. Modern motifs inspired from the tradition motifs are used to symbolized compassion, integrity, humility, friendship, symbolizing balance, and adaptability.

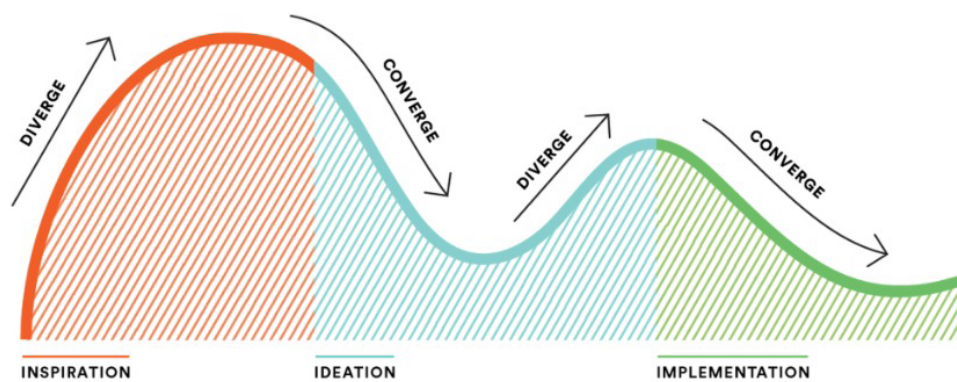


Image 10. Design Procee Details.