



# We have all patients covered

Dignity Giving Suits (DGS) Ltd. Intellectual property is protected by patents-GB 2503963,AU 2013353803,CA 2892771,EP 2928333 & US 10,918,144  
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# Innovative Patient Clothing

**Introducing the revolutionary solution to patient dignity.  
Giving healthcare practitioners full unrestricted  
access to their patients while ensuring patient dignity is  
upheld at every stage of care.**



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# Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits (DGS)

## **DGS are an innovative and patient focused replacement to Hospital Gowns.**

Developed in collaboration with healthcare practitioners, theatre teams, technical imaging specialists and patients to ensure that they deliver the best possible functionality at all stages of care and actively covers the patient ensuring comfort and dignity at all times.

Designed to allow the attachment of drips, drains, lines, feeding tubes and catheters to the patient via openings in the Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits.

Medical examinations can be performed by only opening the required sections of the Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits, eliminating the need for the patient to be unnecessarily exposed, this not only helps the patient's dignity and independence, but assists in dignified recuperation post operatively.

During the extensive clinical trials, clinicians and technical staff alike found the design of the Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits conducive to their procedures and all commented on the practicality of preserving the patient's dignity during examination and surgical procedures.

Patients who took part in the trials were so comfortable in the Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits that they did not want to take them off.

All reported that they felt happier being able to move around the ward independently and without feeling exposed.

**The Dignity Giving Range is a patented innovative solution to patient dignity.**



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# Hospital gowns and impact on patients' dignity

Several studies have found that hospital gowns or nightclothes put privacy of the body at risk as they are ill-fitting and expose the back (Baillie 2007; Baillie et al. 2008; Bauer, 1994; Matiti, 2002; Matiti and Sharman, 1999;; Walsh and Kowanko, 2002; Woogara, 2005). In addition, Matiti (2002) identified that as gowns are done up at the back they render patients helpless

In Baillie's (2007) study, several male patients commented that operation gowns allowed bodily exposure. These were worn by patients during surgery and immediately post-operatively and then a nightshirt was offered which still had an opening at the back. The rationale for not wearing pyjama trousers was that male patients inevitably had urethral catheters, which must drain freely and needed to be easily checked by staff. Some patients perceived that these garments caused a loss of dignity because of the associated bodily exposure. For example one patient said that he did not like wearing an operation gown as it was 'indecent'. Some extracts from interviews with patients:

*'How dignity's compromised is these gowns you wear are wide open at the back aren't they? I mean I noticed a man who was a good friend of mine in the next bed - every time he stood up and looked out of the window you could see all his back wide open - which is not the prettiest scene in the world ...I'm only thinking about when I do it - that's my dignity.'*

*'if you were going anywhere you had to chuck your dressing gown over the top a bit quick because otherwise your bum was hanging out the back. And everybody said the same. The guy in the next bed - he was quite a big bloke - and they had a job to find one to fit him. And they couldn't even get the tapes done up on that.... I mean that was one of the worst bits, to be absolutely honest - that was one bit where you hadn't got any dignity cos you just couldn't do anything about it'.*

It was noticed in Baillie's (2007) study that patients wearing hospital gowns and nightshirts seemed ingrained as a ward 'norm' and only two staff members identified them as a threat to dignity. There was no obvious insight into the levels of discomfort experienced by some patients. One male patient referred to the gown as embarrassing and like a 'frock' and it seemed that as well as leading to a risk of exposure, he also considered them a problem as they were not what men usually wear: *'I'm not used to a frock! Women are'*. This patient was particularly concerned about exposure when visitors were present:

*'I had visitors there when this poor old chap opposite was walking around moving up his gown - so there he's all exposed - there's my son and his wife. You feel a bit embarrassed for that'.*

Baillie (2007) recommended that design of operation gowns should be reconsidered, arguing that it must be possible to reduce the accompanying bodily exposure. To reduce threats to dignity in hospital, bodily exposure should be avoided which will require challenging practices such as traditional hospital gowns and searching for other creative solutions. In a large survey of the UK nursing workforce in 2008, nurses identified gowns as a dignity issue, particularly as they were invariably ill-fitting or in bad repair (Baillie et al. 2008).

Reed (2011) reports on research that investigated dignity of children in hospital. She includes an example of a 14 year old boy with cystic fibrosis who was regularly admitted with acute infections and who felt 'ridiculous' in a hospital gown. Reed (2011) expands that hospital gowns are particularly disliked by boys who view them as dresses and therefore embarrassing, a situation compounded when they have to leave the ward in their gown to visit other areas of the hospital.

## References

Baillie, L. (2007) *Patient dignity in an acute hospital setting*. Unpublished thesis. London South Bank University, Baillie, L., Gallagher, A., Wainwright, P. (2008) *Defending dignity: challenges and opportunities*. London: Royal College of Nursing. Bauer, I. (1994) *Patients' privacy: an exploratory study of patients' perception of their privacy in a German acute care hospital*. Aldershot: Avebury. Matiti, M. R. (2002) *Patient dignity in nursing: a phenomenological study*. Unpublished thesis. University of Huddersfield School of Education and Professional Development. Matiti, M. R. and Sharman, J. (1999) Dignity: a study of preoperative patients. *Nursing Standard*. **14**(13), pp.32-35. Reed, P. (2011) Dignity for children. In: Matiti, M.R and Baillie, L (Eds) *Dignity in Healthcare: a practical approach for nurses and midwives*. London: Radcliffe Publishing, pp 81-94. Walsh, K. and Kowanko, I. (2002) Nurses' and patients' perceptions of dignity. *International Journal of Nursing Practice*. **8**(3), pp.143-151. Woogara, J. (2005) Patients' Privacy of the Person and Human Rights. *Nursing Ethics*. **12**(3), pp.273-287.

## Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits would like to thank Professor Lesley Baillie for the inclusion of her research paper

Professor Lesley Baillie is the Florence Nightingale Foundation Chair of Clinical Nursing Practice, School of Health and Social Care, London South Bank University, and University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, also Director of the Centre for Nurse and Midwife-led Research and Honorary Professor, University College London



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# Sholom Glouberman, founder Patients Canada

**A solution to hospital gowns** Posted on October 8, 2014

<https://healthandeverythingblog.wordpress.com/2014/10/08/a-solution-to-hospital-gowns/>

In many discussions about patient experiences in healthcare there are allusions to the loss of dignity that many patients experience when they enter the hospital. Often patients who value their privacy are subjected to extraordinary intrusions which would be intolerable in any other circumstance. Often, because it is such an ordinary part of the hospital experience, we do not see the indignities that occur as a matter of course. The most glaring of these is the hospital gown. Patients' bodies are only partly covered by a gown that seems to be a mandatory requirement in hospitals almost everywhere. We have forgotten the reasons for it, but assume that gowns are designed to allow doctors and nurses easy access to the patient's body.

It first occurred to me that this was a privacy issue which is not covered by the current privacy regulations, as it's currently fixed on keeping medical records away from prying eyes. Many patients believe that at least the same amount of attention that's paid to safeguarding medical records should be paid to keeping their bodies private. I believe that this is yet another hangover from the early days of scientific medicine when patients gave their bodies over to science once they entered the hospital. This is clearly a privacy issue of significance to patients.

Last week journalist Tom Blackwell of the National Post wrote a long and varied feature on the issue and interviewed not only physicians, but also patients and representatives from Patients Canada. The article pointed out that the vast majority of patients had no medical need to be so accessible to doctors or nurses, and it was even suggested that the gowns contributed to health deterioration that led to increased returns to hospital.

**Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits would like to thank Sholom Glouberman for the inclusion of his blog**

Formed in 2011, Patients Canada (formerly the Patients' Association of Canada) is a charitable organization that fosters collaboration among patients, family caregivers and the healthcare community. As a network of patients and family caregivers, we believe that working in collaboration with the healthcare system can lead to real, effective change – change that will improve everyone's experience with healthcare.



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# Designed For Patients

Ask any patient of their worst memory of life on the ward and they will undoubtedly tell of how the open backed gown left them feeling vulnerable, cold and without dignity.

Patient dignity has been a fundamental consideration in the development of the Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits. We have developed the two piece pyjama style suit to be recognisable to the patient so they do not feel out of place while wearing DGS

We ensured that as much of the patient is covered without compromising the garments clinical utility so the patient feels comfortable and is encouraged to be active both before and after procedures.

We extended this design ethos to our Dignity Giving Gowns by designing a wrap over fronted gown eliminating the rear opening feature suffered by traditional gown wearers, innovative hook and loop fastenings ensure that as with the suit complete patient accessibility is achievable if required.

Many patients expressed their dislike of the traditional patient gown and are very pleased that they can now attend hospital without the worry of exposure that the traditional open backed gown brings.

- Total coverage of patient to ensure dignity at all times.
- Recognisable design and easy to put on/remove.
- Encourages patient movement for postoperative recovery.



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# Designed For Surgeons

Ask any surgeon about the current patient gown and they will tell you that they are impractical and often need to be cut or removed completely to gain access to the patient.

- The Dignity Giving Range is being used in surgical environments, allowing surgeons to access only the part of the body required without exposing the rest of the patient, keeping the patient covered before and during procedures to assist in the avoidance of perioperative hyperthermia.

- Drips, drains, lines, feeding tubes and catheters can all be attached to the patient via openings in the Dignity Giving Gowns and Suits, eliminating the need for the patient to be exposed, which not only helps the patient's dignity and independence, but assists in recuperation post operatively.

Although designed to protect the dignity of patients, Dignity Giving Gowns and Suits have worked with healthcare professionals to identify their clinical needs and utilise innovative design concepts to deliver a patient gown that actively assist healthcare professionals to carry out all clinical procedures without exposing the patient or changing the patients clothing.



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# Designed For Clinicians

Ask any clinician about the current patient gown and they will tell you that patients are uncomfortable walking around the wards due to the lack of coverage and often wear another gown over the back of them.

That the ties on the back are hard to fasten for elderly patients and are often missing or knotted.

- Ward teams and aftercare professionals are finding that the Dignity Giving Range is assisting greatly in the treatment of bed bound patients as its innovative design allows for attachment and removal of the garment in the supine position.

- Due to the innovative hook and loop fastening system the Dignity Giving Range was designed to be safe and invisible when being used during XRays, CT and MRI technologies

Clinicians and technical staff alike are finding the design of the Dignity Giving Range of patient clothing conducive to their procedures and all commented on the practicality of preserving the patient's dignity during examination and surgical procedures.



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# How do the DGS work?



The Dignity Giving range has totally changed the concept of clinical patient wear.



All of the Dignity Giving range is designed to be fully reversible giving the same unrestricted access to the front and back of the patient if required.



The Gowns and Suits are designed to have multiple points of closure allowing unique unprecedented access for many of today's complicated procedures.



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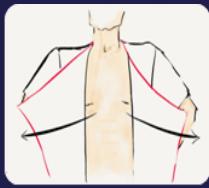
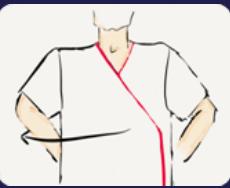
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# Dignity Giving Tops/Gowns



## Upper Arm Access and Shoulder Access

Both sleeves open to allow examinations of the upper arm areas. The shoulder area can easily be opened either on one side or to both sides to access the neck, shoulders upper back or upper chest area.



## Chest/Back Access

The top can be worn with the wrap over to the front or back depending on the surgical procedure or should dressings require attention. By opening in this way the patient is still covered and warm by the trousers and the sides and sleeves of the top.



## Abdominal/Back Access

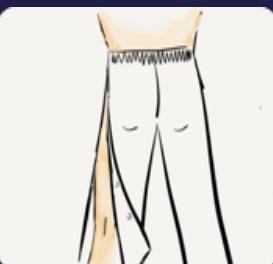
Both sides of the top and the trousers open, allowing full access to the abdomen, sides or back, whilst keeping the rest of the patient warm and covered.



## Upper Drain Access

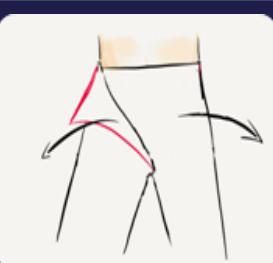
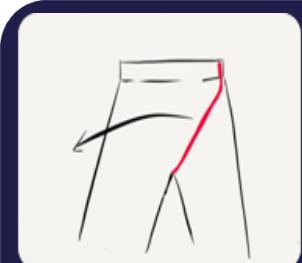
Drains or lines from the chest area can be brought away from the patient through the openings down the sides of the top.

# Dignity Giving Bottoms



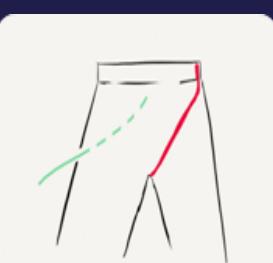
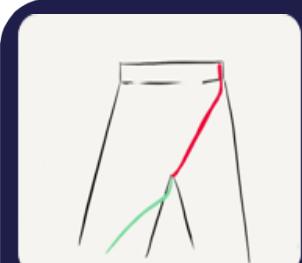
## Dignity Giving Bottom - Leg Access

The legs open down both outer seams, inner seams or both to allow for lower leg examinations, procedures or to allow the bottoms to be worn with a plaster cast.



## Dignity Giving Bottom - Abdomen Access

The trousers feature a wrap over to the front which can be opened to allow access to the abdomen area. There is also a concealed flap for added coverage



## Dignity Giving Bottom - Drain/Catheter Access

The wrap over front allows for catheters and the side openings allow for surgical lines/drains to be fed through the trousers, allowing unrestricted patient mobility and body coverage.

## Children's Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits



## Adults Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits



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# Guidance & Feedback for Laundering Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits (DGS)

- All of the infection control and high impact intervention observation reports have not shown any rise in infection rates.
- The DGS are washed by commercial laundries and laundered in compliance with (CFPP) 01-04 Part of the CFPP 01 Decontamination series. The DGS go through a thermal disinfection cycle that reaches 71°C for at least three minutes or 65°C for at least ten minutes.
- Part of the linen & laundry regulations state “no pre-sorting” of linen, so all items are washed as they are received. If DGS are received with hook & loops not together they will be washed as such.
- Commercial laundries have not reported any problems with washing the DGS.
- Hospitals have reported that they have not experienced any colour fading, shrinking or major build-up of lint on the hook and loop,
- Further feedback has shown that although the initial outlay appeared higher than other patient gowns, the DGS have been washed in excess of 400 times, in use for over 48 months and still performing well, which makes the DGS an attractive economic alternative to current patient gowns which are mainly treated as disposable.



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We understand that everyone is shaped and sized differently. All Dignity Giving Gowns and Suits are Colour Coded at the binding to aid healthcare professionals choose the right size for their patients.

#### Children's Gowns & Suits

Trim	Size	Age
		2 - 3
	X Small	4 - 5
	Small	6 - 8
	Medium	9 - 11
	Large	12 - 13



#### Adult Gowns & Suits

Trim	Size
	Small
	Medium
	Large
	X Large
	XX Large
	Maternity

Larger sizes are available on request

After 4 years of real world utilisation spanning many clinical environments, our Dignity Giving range continues to support all healthcare professionals. As such many hospitals have reported the following benefits of employing the DGS

Better management of patients operated on in the supine position

Encourages postoperative patient mobility and aids recuperation

No reported increases in infection from the hospitals using the DGS

Improved management of patients in anaesthetic recovery

Used during XRays & MRI scans without encumbering the imaging Process

Better thermal management of patient as more of the body remains covered

Patients are happier to wear DGS over the traditional patient gown

Easier to access the patient in a crash situation



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# Feedback

DGS have received many glowing testimonials below are a few

*"It's really important for children to feel comfortable and have their dignity maintained. These are just amazing, I love them"*  
– Professor Janice Stevens, Health Education England

*I have recently had a conscious procedure wearing your Gown I felt covered and relaxed while the surgeon operated. The hospital staff were asking about the Gown as they said it was fantastic – Carol Newnham, patient Darenth Hospital*

*I believe through my own experience, people that I've spoken to, and those that already have these suits, feel that they would help children feel more comfortable and dignified in such difficult circumstances, which can only go on to making them feel better and help with the progress of becoming well again at the same time giving them one less thing to worry about, however old we all want our dignity and comfort.*

– Claire Quince, former patient Addenbrookes

*Using the dignity suit with our young person has taught him to match the Velcro strips and assisted in teaching him the concept of dressing.  
He found the look of the suit interesting as we had picked material that he would like i.e. cars/trains.*

*By using the suit over a period of time and with full support from his staff team he has learnt the concept of dressing however this has taken several months of day to day therapy. I am pleased to say that he is now tolerating other clothing.*

– Anita Smart, Director, Alderwood, Living and Learning with Autism

*I am more than grateful to Dignity giving suits for the opportunity to wear the DGS during my stay and op at the Hallamshire last July. DGS allowed discreet accessibility to the many tubes, pipes and catheters, with the least invasion or disruption to my privacy and well being*

– Pat Ward former patient Hallamshire Hospital

*A MUM whose 11-year-old daughter died from a rare illness is raising funds to buy special suits to help other child intensive care patients keep their dignity. Farah Ali was so grateful for taking part in a trial of the suits when her daughter Hafsa was desperately ill in a hospital bed that she wants to raise money so other families can benefit from them. The dignity suits mean that patients can stay covered at all times which Mrs Ali said was particularly important for her as a parent. Mrs Ali said: "The suits are still a new idea and are being tried out by some hospitals including Leeds but I think every hospital's ICU should use them, for adults as well. "Keeping dignity is so important for patients and for their families. They are so much better than the old-type backless gowns."*

**Taken from an article written by Kathie Griffiths in the Telegraph and Argus, dated 21 March 2016**



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# Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits in the Press

Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits are taking the Healthcare sector by storm, with patients and clinicians alike highly praising them. Many News organisations have picked up the story and have reported it worldwide.

The Guardian

The Daily Express

Nursing Times

Telegraph & Argos



Introducing the DGS to the Jeremy Hunt when he was Secretary of State for Health

The Daily Mail

MSN News

ITV News

BBC News



## Contact Dignity Giving Gowns & Suits

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