

Redesigning the Hospital Gown

Project Guide

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

How could you make a better hospital gown that is functional for medical staff but also not so embarrassing to wear?



Project Intro Video:
Hospital Gown
Redesign



Inspirational Video:
Ward + Robes Hospital
gowns for teens



PROJECT CATEGORY:

Design

DIFFICULTY LEVEL:

Beginner

TIME RANGE:

45 - 90 minutes

ESSENTIAL SKILLS/ MINDSETS THAT YOU MAY LEARN:

Design Thinking

Human-centered
Design

Empathy

Iteration

Prototyping

Collaboration

Communication

TOOLS AND MATERIALS:

- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Markers
- Popsicle sticks (or any wooden stick)
- 10x5 inch sections of various color/patterns of fabric or felt
- Washi Tape
- Ribbon, snap fasteners, and rubber bands

AT HOME SUBSTITUTIONS:

- If you don't have fabric or felt scraps you can find old shirts to cut up –maybe even keep the buttons on a sleeve to use in your final design.

MATERIAL PURCHASE LINK:

<http://tiny.cc/Intelbuylis>

Project Steps

Dream It!

Have you ever worn a hospital gown before? It might have made you feel naked, embarrassed, or like your personality was stripped away! In this project, you will be challenged to make the experience of going to the hospital more positive by redesigning the hospital gown in both form and function.

1

Watch the intro and inspire-to videos to unpack the challenge and empathize with patients who have to wear traditional hospital gowns. [05]

2

Write a short list of what is wrong with typical hospital gowns. [05]

Draw It!

- 3 Brainstorm and sketch a better design for a hospital gown. [05]

What feature will it have? Why will it be better? Learn what's needed in a hospital gown.

- 4 Look at all the materials you have to work with, and then draw a final idea of what your newly redesigned gown prototype will look like. [05]

Build It!

- 5 Gather the materials that you will need. [05]

- 6 Build a gown prototype that solves current gown problems to make them more comfortable and functional. [15]

Share It!

- 7 Present your gown prototype to others and get feedback. [05]

Expand It!

Want to continue this human-centered design journey? Challenge yourself to empathize in a way that helps you create amazing and useful devices for others. Use the ideas below as a start.

- **Remix it +[15]** If you have time, do a 2nd iteration of your design based on people's feedback. How can you make it even better than your first prototype?
- Using your prototype, create a larger life size hospital gown
- Present your life size gown to a real patient or hospital and turn your idea into a reality! Look up your local chapter of the Make A Wish Foundation and see if they have a local patient you can design a gown for! www.wish.org/local-chapters

GOWN REDESIGN NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

A hospital gown needs to allow doctors to have easy access to your different body parts so they can do their job and fix what's wrong with you. The problem is, you're not only around doctors at the hospital, and there are strangers around you too! So wouldn't it be nice if the gown could easily open in some places, but close up so that you don't feel so exposed in front of strangers? How can we change this?

IDEAS TO TRY:

Think about how to solve for the needs of the patient and Doctors. Will your gown have slits, snaps, ties, or other ways the gown could function better with modesty.

TIPS:

For younger participants, use a Popsicle stick or tongue depressor as the person and then cut your fabric gown to "dress" them with. For older participants, focus on the new features as you create your redesigned gown out of fabric and glue.

Add functionality characteristics like robe-like opening in front or areas that can snap open and shut.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

- The Hospital Gown Gets a Modest Redesign: www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/style/hospital-gown-parsons-care-wear.html
- Redesigned Hospital Gowns Are Helping Young Patients Feel More Like Themselves: <http://tiny.cc/redesignedgowns>
- In Search of a Better Gown: www.wncwoman.com/2016/06/this-is-a-hospital-gown/

NEED MORE HELP AND INFORMATION?

Contact us at: intelfutureskills@intel.com

"It was weird [being in the hospital gown], everyone kept looking at me and I didn't know what to do; I felt naked."

— Emma, 11 years old, a patient going into surgery in California



DASH OF DESIGN:

Watch this video to learn more about Intel's Design Thinking process:

