

# Laundry



## PURPOSE:

To provide the safe handling of soiled laundry and bedding and environmental cleaning equipment

## MATERIALS:

- Disposable gloves
- If needed:
  - Disposable gown
  - Disposable mask with eye protection
- Laundry bag and hamper
- Garbage bags
- Disinfectant wipes
- Laundry detergent
- Household bleach
- Washing machine & dryer



## CLEANING STEPS

1



### Do a Risk Assessment

- Determine risk of exposure to germs and the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required for the task.
- Wear the correct PPE to safely do the job.

2



- Routine laundry practices can be used for all linens used by patients regardless of their medical condition or diagnosis.
- Solid waste should be removed by the nurse at point-of-care and then linens can be put into laundry bag for washing.
- Laundry cannot be properly cleaned if it contains a large amount of solid waste.

3



- Collect soiled laundry/bedding.
- Carefully roll up the soiled laundry to prevent soiling of your clothes.
- Wrap the wet laundry/bedding in a dry sheet or towel to help prevent any dripping.
- Laundry carts or hampers used to collect or transport soiled linen do not need to be covered.
- Laundry bags to be tied securely - do not over fill.
- Linen hampers need to be cleaned as part of the daily routine cleaning.

4



- Take the laundry bags/hamper to the laundry room as soon as possible; do not leave in the patient care area until the end of your shift.



5



- Sort the dirty laundry and bedding in the laundry room - not in the client areas.
- Patient laundry and bedding should be done separately from environmental cleaning items.
- Dirty laundry should NOT be put on the floor but sorted in baskets or bins.
- After every use, put cloth bags used to hold dirty laundry into the washing machine with the rest of the laundry.
- Remove lint from dryer before starting each load.

6



- Laundry should be washed using laundry detergent:
  - Measure out the correct amount of laundry detergent
  - Cold water for washing is acceptable if using laundry detergent for cold water
  - Use the full washing cycle
  - Use the full drying cycle
  - Put the load through two full wash cycles for heavily soiled items.
- Use bleach solution (1:500 dilution) for:
  - White linens such as towels and sheets
  - Cleaning equipment such as reusable wiping cloths and mop heads.

Typically this is 1 cup of bleach to 28 gallons—check the laundry machine’s manual to see the gallon capacity in a full load as this is different with each model.

See Bleach Chart in the Infection Prevention and Control Manual for further details.



7



- Put on clean gloves before moving wet items from washer to dryer.
- Remove gloves and put in garbage.
- Do hand hygiene.

8



- Keep the clean laundered items separate from unwashed items.
- Store clean linens and cleaned environmental equipment items such as mop heads in separate places.
- Protect clean laundry from dust and dirt during storage and handling.

