



Section	Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	Effective:	2007
Sub-section	Infection Control	Version:	2.0
Policy	Healthcare Laundry Processing	Last Revised:	DRAFT
Director's Approval	_____	Date	_____
	Alice Gleghorn, PhD		
PHF Medical Director's Approval	_____	Date	_____
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Supersedes:	Linen/Laundry Policy rev. 5/24/2017		
Approvals:	PHF Medical Practice Committee:	PHF Governing Board:	

1. PURPOSE/SCOPE

- 1.1. ~~Patient linens are~~ Healthcare laundry is a potential means of transmission of infection. ~~cross contamination between patients, Health Care Workers (HCWs) and the environment.~~ This policy describes the process for managing linens healthcare laundry at the Santa Barbara County Psychiatric Health Facility (hereafter the "PHF"). ~~patient care unit.~~
- 1.2. Laundering of ~~linens~~ healthcare laundry is done by county contract with a commercial laundry contractor.

2. DEFINITIONS

The following terms are limited to the purposes of this policy:

- 2.1. ~~Patient Care Linen Set~~ — one fitted sheet, one flat sheet, one blanket, one pillow slip, one wash cloth and one towel.
- 2.2. **Healthcare laundry** – all linens used in the care of PHF patients that are laundered in accordance with guidelines set Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council and the Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology (APIC) standards.
- 2.3. **Standard Precautions** – a group of infection prevention practices that applies to all patients in any healthcare setting regardless of suspected or confirmed infection status. Standard precautions are followed to protect patients and healthcare workers as set forth in the PHF's policy *Standard Precautions*.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. Linens Healthcare laundry shall be cleaned, handled and transported according to federal, state, and local regulations. In addition, the commercial laundry contractor and PHF staff shall adhere to guidelines and standards set forth by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) and the Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology (APIC) at all times.
- 3.2. The management of cleaning and transporting of linens healthcare laundry will be provided by a commercial laundry contractor. The linens healthcare laundry shall be transported in plastic bags or wrapping. Transport carts shall be provided and cleaned by the contractor.

4. PROCEDURE

- 4.1. Using standard precautions as defined in the PHF's policy *Standard Precautions*, PHF staff and the commercial laundry contractor shall handle all used linens healthcare laundry as if contaminated.
- 4.2. Patient's linens healthcare laundry shall be changed twice a week or more often as necessary. The patient may change their own linens healthcare laundry if they prefer.

1. Soiled/Used Linens Healthcare Laundry

- a. Soiled or used linens healthcare laundry are placed in the "soiled" laundry bags in the "soiled" laundry closet linen closet.
- b. A soiled laundry bag is considered full when 2/3 full and there is adequate space to securely close the top of the bag.
- c. Laundry bags shall not be filled to the top or overflowing.
- d. Only laundry bags provided by the commercial laundry contractor shall be used.
- e. Used pillows shall be disinfected and stored in "clean" linen closets.

2. Clean Linens Healthcare Laundry

- a. Clean linens healthcare laundry is stored in the clean linen closets. Never used, Clean pillows shall also be stored in the clean linen closets. These closets shall be kept closed when not in use to ensure that clean linens healthcare laundry is enclosed and protected in accordance with infection prevention standards. Staff should deliver clean linens healthcare laundry directly to the patient's room. shall not leave clean healthcare laundry unattended.
- b. Once clean linens healthcare laundry has been removed from the clean linen closets, it shall never be returned to the clean linen closets.
- c. Clean linens healthcare laundry shall be free of holes and tears, in good repair and usable. Any clean linens healthcare laundry with holes, tears or stains shall not be used and shall be returned to the commercial laundry contractor.

3. Linen Supply Healthcare Laundry Inventory

- a. The commercial laundry contractor shall service the PHF twice a week and shall deliver supplementary deliveries as requested by the PHF Clinical Director or his or her designee per contractual obligation.
- b. Inventory levels for healthcare laundry shall be negotiated between the PHF Clinical Director or a designee and the commercial laundry contractor. will maintain a par level of three (3) sets per patient (minimum of 48 sets at any given time).

ASSISTANCE

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REFERENCE

Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC)

Association for Professionals in Infection Prevention and Epidemiology (APIC)
4th Edition, 111-6

Code of Federal Regulations
Title 42, Section 482.42

RELATED POLICIES

Hand Hygiene

Standard Precautions

REVISION RECORD

DATE	VERSION	REVISION DESCRIPTION
DRAFT	2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioned from “linen/laundry” to “healthcare laundry”

Culturally and Linguistically Competent Policies

The Department of Behavioral Wellness is committed to the tenets of cultural competency and understands that culturally and linguistically appropriate services are respectful of and responsive to the health beliefs, practices and needs of diverse individuals. All policies and procedures are intended to reflect the integration of diversity and cultural literacy throughout the Department. To the fullest extent possible, information, services and treatments will be provided (in verbal and/or written form) in the individual’s preferred language or mode of communication (i.e. assistive devices for blind/deaf).