



<b>Section</b>	Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF)	<b>Effective:</b>	8/18/2016
<b>Sub-section</b>	Infection Control	<b>Version:</b>	1.1
<b>Policy</b>	Washer and Dryer Disinfection and Solid Laundry Handling	<b>Last Revised:</b>	8/18/2016
<b>Director's Approval</b>	_____	<b>Date</b>	_____
	Alice Gleghorn, PhD		
<b>PHF Medical Director's Approval</b>	_____	<b>Date</b>	_____
	Ole Behrendtsen, MD		
<b>Supersedes:</b>	Washer and Dryer Disinfection/Soiled Laundry Handling		
<b>Approvals:</b>	PHF Medical Practice Committee: 10/7/2019 PHF Governing Board:		

## 1. PURPOSE/SCOPE

- 1.1. To ensure that the laundry equipment for patient use **items** is cleaned and disinfected daily ~~to prevent the potential of cross-contamination.~~ **according to manufacturer's instructions.**
- 1.2. To ensure soiled laundry is handled and washed properly to minimize the potential of environmental contamination.
- 1.3. To maintain ~~the highest~~ standards of infection control and prevention **to create hygienically clean fabric to which** reduces **the risk of healthcare associated infections.** ~~in patients, visitors and staff.~~

## 2. POLICY

- 2.1. Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) washers and dryers will be cleaned and disinfected daily according to manufacturer's instructions.

## 3. CLEANING AND DISINFECTION GUIDELINES

- 3.1. Facilities Management to **clean** washer filter every month during environmental rounds.
- 3.2. **Environmental Services** (EVS) to daily wipe inside of washer with disinfectant wipe and outside of washer with soft cloth and water or disinfectant wipe if visibly soiled.
- 3.3. **EVS to run 3-cycle cleaning every month:**

1. Run a hot cycle with 2 cups of bleach in detergent compartment
  2. Run a hot cycle with 2 cups of vinegar in detergent compartment
  3. Run a hot cycle with plain water.
- 3.4. Nursing staff to wipe the rubber gasket with a disinfectant wipe after each use.
  - 3.5. EVS to daily wipe inside of dryer with disinfectant wipe and to wipe outside of dryer with soft cloth and water or disinfectant wipe if visibly soiled.
  - 3.6. PHF staff will clean the lint trap after each use.
  - ~~3.7. The night nursing shift staff will do a cleansing load (with no laundry) daily after laundry use is completed.~~
  - ~~3.8. The load will be set on hot, for a complete wash and rinse cycle, high water setting with two (2) cups chlorine bleach added to a full load of water.~~
  - ~~3.9. The dryer will have the lint trap cleaned and wiped off with a germicide wipe.~~
  - ~~3.10. Daily surface cleaning inside and out of both washer and dryer will be done with germicidal wipe.~~

#### 4. **SOILED LAUNDRY HANDLING**

- 4.1. Soiled laundry will be transported in such a way as to prevent environmental contamination (i.e. in a pillow case, laundry basket, or paper bag) and using standard precautions.
- 4.2. Patients and staff should perform hand hygiene wash his/her hands after handling soiled laundry. Staff will utilize appropriate hand hygiene if exposed to contaminants.
- 4.3. If a patient has a known or potential infection that would cause cross contamination of clothing or linens, the patient's clothing will be laundered at the end of the day and followed with the sanitizing wash.
  - ~~1. If more than one patient has a known or potential infection, the washer and dryer must be sanitized between uses.~~
- 4.4. Hygienically clean laundry provides negligible risk to healthcare workers and patients. If items to be washed have potentially infectious materials, use of hot settings for the washer and dryer yields the laundry hygienically clean.
  1. At the completion of the load containing potentially infectious material, the inside of washer and dryer will be disinfected using a disinfectant wipe.

#### **ASSISTANCE**

Andra Dillard, MSN, PHN, RN, CIC, Infection Preventionist

#### **REFERENCE**

Code of Federal Regulations  
Title 42, Section 482.42

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

*Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities: Recommendations of CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). MMWR 2003; 52 (No. RR-10): 1-48. [http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/leic\\_in\\_hcf\\_03.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/pdf/guidelines/leic_in_hcf_03.pdf)*

Centers for Disease control and Prevention.

*Guideline for Hand Hygiene in Health-Care Settings: Recommendations of the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee and the HICPAC/SHEA/APIC/IDSA Hand Hygiene Task Force. MMWR 2002; 51 (No. RR-16):1-45.*

## **RELATED POLICIES**

### **Standard Precautions**

Hand Hygiene

Linen-Laundry Management

## **REVISION RECORD**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>VERSION</b>	<b>REVISION DESCRIPTION</b>
10/7/19	1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revised Section 3 to add procedures for EVS, nursing staff, and PHF staff in regards to cleaning the washers</li> <li>Revised Section 4 to add language about how to wash soiled laundry</li> </ul>
8/18/16	1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Updated language in Section 1 to match current standards</li> <li>Updated Section 3 with current process</li> <li>Changed the language in Section 4 to be more accurate and better describe current practices</li> </ul>

### ***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).*