



Proper Transfer of Soiled Clothing and Bedding for Infection Control

Labeling Clothing: It's essential to label each resident's clothes clearly to avoid confusion or mix-ups. This step ensures that items are always returned to the correct person, minimizing the risk of cross-contamination.

Soiled Clothes in Bags: Dirty clothes should never leave the room unless they are placed in a bag. This helps maintain hygiene by containing contaminants and ensures that soiled items are not exposed to other areas, reducing the spread of infection. The bag acts as a barrier to contain potentially harmful pathogens and bacteria.

Rinsing and Cleaning: Once the clothes are in the bag, they must be rinsed thoroughly to remove any debris, bodily fluids, or other residue before placing them into the washer. This process reduces the amount of pathogens on the clothing and helps prevent the spread of infections through the laundry process.

Proper Labeling of Wet Clothes: If the clothes cannot go into the washer immediately, the bag should be properly labeled with the wet clothes inside to avoid confusion or neglect. Proper labeling ensures that the wet clothes are handled correctly, further preventing the risk of cross-contamination and infection.

Never Leave Clothes Unrinsed: Rinsing out the clothes before putting them into the bag is non-negotiable. Leaving clothes unrinsed could result in unpleasant odors, bacteria growth, or the spread of pathogens, compromising hygiene and infection control. Ensuring that clothes are rinsed helps prevent the proliferation of harmful microbes.

Always Label the Bag: It's a crucial part of maintaining cleanliness and organization. Each bag containing soiled or wet clothes must be labeled to ensure that each resident's items are properly tracked and processed. This helps ensure that the laundry is handled promptly and correctly, reducing the potential for mishandling and infection risk.

Bedding and Room Maintenance

Never Leave Soiled Clothes in a Resident's Room: Soiled clothes should never remain in the resident's room for extended periods. If a resident is known to change their own clothes after they are soiled, it is especially important to check the laundry basket each time you go into the room. This helps prevent the accumulation of soiled items, which can lead to hygiene and infection control issues.

Bedding Inspection: Every time you're in the resident's room, especially before making the bed, ensure that the bed is clean. Never make a bed that is soiled. If the bedding is soiled, remove it immediately. Do not simply cover the wet or soiled area with a new sheet or chuck pad.



Soiled Mattresses: If the mattress itself is soiled, it's critical to alert maintenance or housekeeping right away. The mattress must be properly cleaned or replaced to ensure proper hygiene and infection control. A soiled mattress can harbor bacteria and pathogens, so it's important that it's handled and sanitized appropriately.

Infection Control Considerations

Proper handling, rinsing, and labeling of soiled clothes and bedding is a key element of infection control in any setting, particularly in healthcare or communal living environments. By following these steps, the spread of harmful bacteria, viruses, and pathogens can be minimized. Ensuring that clothes and bedding are properly rinsed, bagged, and cleaned prevents the spread of infections and maintains a hygienic environment for both staff and residents.

By adhering to these procedures, we contribute to maintaining a safe, clean, and infection-free environment.