

Linen and Diaper Handling Policy

Purpose

To outline the proper handling, disposal, and cleaning procedures for soiled diapers and linens to minimize the risk of infection transmission and maintain hygiene in the healthcare environment.

1. Diaper Handling and Disposal

Minimize Contact

- Use disposable gloves and appropriate PPE.

Disposal Guidelines

- Dispose of soiled diapers in designated yellow biomedical waste containers immediately after use.
- Do not dispose of diapers in regular trash or open containers.

Best Practices

1. Use a Diaper Bin

Choose a bin with a tight-fitting lid or foot pedal to reduce odour and contact.

2. Line the Bin

Use a plastic bag to line the bin for easier and more hygienic disposal.

3. Roll and Seal

Roll used diapers tightly and secure them to contain waste and odours.

4. Remove Smelly Diapers Promptly

Empty bins regularly, especially if a particularly odorous diaper is disposed of.

5. Clean the Bin

Clean and disinfect the bin frequently to prevent microbial growth.

Hand Hygiene

- Remove gloves immediately after diaper disposal.
- Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand rub.

Infection Control Risks

- Improper disposal of diapers can lead to the spread of germs and unpleasant odours.
- Must comply with biomedical waste regulations to prevent healthcare-associated infections.

2. Linen Handling and Processing

Routine Linen Handling

- Daily Change: All linen is to be changed daily, and more often if visibly soiled.
- Minimal Agitation: Move soiled linen carefully to prevent aerosolization of pathogens.
- Point of Use Collection: All soiled linen should be bagged or placed in carts at the point of use.
 - a. Do not pre-rinse or sort linen in patient-care areas.
 - b. Use leak-proof bags for linen soiled with blood or body fluids.

Transport

- Transport soiled linen using leak-proof, clearly marked bags or carts.
- Ensure no leakage or cross-contamination during transport.

Disinfection of Soiled and Infected Linen

- Handled by outsourced laundry services via MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Procedure:

1. PPE: Laundry staff must wear appropriate PPE (gloves, mask, gown, etc.).
2. Initial Handling: Place soiled and infected linen in a 20-liter closed bucket.
3. Hypochlorite Preparation:
 - a. Prepare a 1% hypochlorite solution (>500 ppm) by diluting concentrated hypochlorite (10 parts water to 1-part concentrate).
4. Soaking:
 - a. Pour the solution into the bucket with linen and close the lid for 30 minutes to ensure disinfection.

5. Washing:

- a. After soaking, remove stains and wash linen in the last cycle of the day or in a dedicated washing machine.

Post-Wash Decontamination

- All washed linen must undergo autoclaving before reuse.

Compliance and Monitoring

- Adherence to this policy is mandatory for all staff.
- Regular audits will be conducted by the Infection Control Team.
- Non-compliance will be addressed with retraining and, if necessary, disciplinary action.

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