



Policy Name SELECTION, USE AND MAINTENANCE OF MATTRESSES AND PILLOWS	Policy Number: 1715
	Effective Date: April 20, 2011
Approved By: Management	Date Revised:
Classification: Infection Prevention and Control	Page No: Page 1 of 6

POLICY

Agapé Hospice will follow the Infection Prevention and Control Best Practice Guidelines set out by Alberta Health Services (AHS) for the selection, use and maintenance of mattresses and pillows.

Mattresses and pillows are considered reusable, non-critical resident care items. Non-critical items require cleaning and low-level disinfection between residents.

Mattresses and pillows may become contaminated by body fluids if the covering is torn or has open seams. This can lead to cross-contamination of other persons. **During the cleaning process mattresses and pillows should be inspected for damage.**

PROCEDURE

Selection:

Mattresses and pillows must be covered with an exterior fabric that is:

- durable, water repellent and quick drying
- where possible, seamless. If not, all seams must be tightly closed and sealed
- able to withstand frequent cleaning and low-level disinfection.

A record should be kept of newly purchased mattresses and pillows to facilitate use of warranties and aid in determining the life span of the mattresses and pillows. Each mattress or pillow is to be marked with the date received using a permanent marker.

- **Laundry Personnel** – *Laundry personnel will be responsible for dating the new pillows when purchased and recording the quantity of pillows received on the log sheet, “**Log for Newly Purchased and Discarded Pillows**”. They, also, will be responsible for recording on the log sheet, when a pillow is discarded/taken out of service.*
- **Maintenance Personnel** – *Maintenance personnel will be responsible for numbering any new mattresses and recording the purchase date, date and reason of maintenance and date and reason the mattress was taken out of service on the log sheet, “**Log for Purchased and Discontinued Mattresses**”.*



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Maintenance

Mattresses and pillow covers that are cracked, torn, worn, have evidence of liquid penetration or stains must be removed from service. **Damaged original exterior covering cannot be covered with pillow/mattresses covers or tape.**

Protection

The following guidelines should be followed to protect all mattresses and pillows:

- Do not stack furniture on mattresses or pillows
- Never stick sharp objects, such as needles/lancets, into the mattress or pillow.
- Protect the mattress and pillow with an absorbent, impervious backed fabric/material, such as reusable soaker pads and/or disposable pads, when necessary.

Cleaning and Disinfection

Caregiving staff will be responsible for thoroughly cleaning beds between residents and for longer term residents. Mattresses including bed frames must be disinfected between residents. Disinfection should be completed using the low-level disinfectant approved for use at Agapé Hospice. Beds occupied longer than a month, should be cleaned on a monthly basis, with the date of cleaning recorded on the white report board in the nursing station.

A visual inspection of the mattresses and pillows should be completed at the time of cleaning. **Any mattress or pillow that has a cracked, torn, worn cover or has evidence of liquid penetration or staining must be removed from service and reported to the Clinical Care Coordinator.** All pillows that are not washable are to be discarded.

Refer to the following pages for cleaning/disinfection procedure for mattresses and pillows.

Attachments

Log for Newly Purchased and Discarded Pillows

Log for Newly Purchased and Discontinued Mattresses

References

AHS, Infection Prevention and Control Best Practice Guidelines for Selection, Use and Maintenance of Mattresses and Pillows – August 2010.



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MATTRESS AND BED CLEANING/DISINFECTION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Use the approved low-level disinfectant and a cloth while cleaning/disinfecting equipment.
2. Gloves should be worn and a mask may be worn if sensitive to the disinfectant.
3. Spray and wipe both sides and the edges of the mattress. Visually inspect the mattress for any signs of cracking, wearing, tearing, staining or evidence of liquid penetration. Report any concerns to the Clinical Care Coordinator and remove the mattress from service. Attach a sign, indicating the problem, to the mattress so maintenance is alerted to the concern.
4. Remove the mattress from the bed frame and set it aside to dry.
5. Remove the foot board and the head board. Clean all surfaces and set aside to dry.
6. If possible, flip up or remove any movable foot, seat and head sections of the bed frame and clean exposed areas. If unable to remove or flip up any of these sections, clean the areas as thorough as possible.
7. Raise (“jack-knife”) the head and foot of the bed frame as much as possible to facilitate cleaning between the different sections of the frame.
8. Clean the frame, rails, and wheels underneath the bed.
9. Thoroughly clean the side rails, including the release latch. These are “high touch” areas!
10. When replacing the mattress back on the bed frame, clean the edge of the mattress that was laying on the floor.
11. Allow all areas to dry before putting linens back on the bed.



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PILLOW CLEANING/DISINFECTING INSTRUCTIONS

All pillows are to be sent to the laundry for cleaning/disinfection between residents. Pillows in use with longer term residents may be sent down to the laundry for cleaning or wiped with low-level disinfectant at the point of use.

All standard size pillows are covered with two (2) moisture resistant covers, the manufacturers cover and an extra removable, plastic backed, envelope type cover applied in Agapé Hospice's laundry.

Laundry Department cleaning/disinfection of standard size pillows:

1. Remove the outer protective cover (envelope style) and launder
2. Wipe the permanent manufacturers cover with a low-level disinfectant and allow to dry.
3. Apply a clean outer protective cover on each pillow.
4. Launder and dry any pillow that has a non-water repellent cover. If this is not possible, discard the pillow.

