



Policy Name: <p style="text-align: center;">HANDLING CONTAMINATED LINENS</p>	Policy Number: <p style="text-align: center;">1719</p>
Approved By: <p style="text-align: center;">Executive Team</p>	Effective Date: <p style="text-align: center;">July 18, 2012</p>
Reason for Revision: Click on item below and select item from list. <p style="text-align: center;">CONTENT- Enter BELOW Reason for change Ex: Combined Policy ## and ##.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Added step 3 in Procedure, removed IPC from title and New format being used</p>	Date Revised: <p style="text-align: center;">October 4, 2018</p>
Section: <p style="text-align: center;">Section 17 - Infection Prevention and Control</p>	Next Date for Review: <p style="text-align: center;">October 4, 2021</p>
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Policy

The Salvation Army Agapé Hospice will follow Infection Prevention and Control best practice guidelines when handling laundry. All laundry should be handled as though it is contaminated and could spread microorganisms. Soiled laundry should be handled with a minimum of agitation and shaking.

REFERENCES

Alberta Health Services. (2016). Infection Prevention and Control Community-Based Services Resource Manual – Linen. January 2016.
 Government of Alberta – Alberta Infection Prevention and Control – Stop Bed Bugs. Training Manual, January 2012.
 Public Health Agency of Canada. (2013) Clostridium Difficile Infection – Infection and Control Guidance for Management in Long Term Care Facilities. (web).
<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/nois-sinp/guide/c-dif-ltc-sld/index-eng.php> [November 21, 2016]

Procedure

1. PROCEDURE:

1. Each resident's room will have a laundry bag in the room.
2. Never place soiled laundry on the floor.
3. Employee(s) must protect themselves from cross infection by wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves and gowns and performing hand hygiene.
4. Heavily soiled laundry should be rolled or folded to contain the heaviest soiled area in the center of the bundle
5. Large amounts of solid soil should be removed from the laundry with a gloved hand and **toilet tissue** and disposed of in the toilet.



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****Feces should not be removed by spraying it with water. ****

6. Soiled laundry should be bagged and placed in the large soiled laundry cart. The laundry bags should be securely closed and not overfilled (no more than 2/3 full).
7. Laundry bags **should not** be dragged across the floor.
8. Wet, drippy soiled laundry can be placed in the tapered, lined laundry bags found in the clean linen rooms.
9. Laundry from an **isolation room** is to be kept in their own small portable laundry cart with **large garbage bags** until it is ready to be sent down to the laundry. These laundry bags can be placed in the large soiled laundry cart with the other laundry. The use of large garbage bags alerts the laundry employee to the fact the laundry is from an isolation room so necessary precautions can be taken.

2. LAUNDRY EMPLOYEES

1. The laundry employee(s) must protect themselves from cross infection by wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment such as gloves and gowns or aprons and performing hand hygiene.
2. Use completed wash, rinse, and dry cycles.
3. The large soiled laundry cart must be cleaned after each use.
4. Laundry bags must be laundered before being returned to the resident's rooms.