

Laundry Standards

Purpose

The Non-Hospital Medical and Surgical Facilities Accreditation Program (NHMSFAP) Committee is responsible for establishing accreditation standards, policies, rules, procedures and guidelines for the NHMSFAP to ensure the delivery of high -quality and safe services in non-hospital facilities.

This policy addresses the laundering of reusable textiles used in non -hospital facilities.

Background

The textiles which are laundered varies from health- care facility to health -care facility. In non-hospital facilities, reusable health -care textiles may include patient bedding and gowns, towels, scrubs, surgical gowns and drapes, privacy curtains and envi ronmental cleaning cloths and mop heads.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC) Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health- Care Facilities outline the necessary parameters for effective cleaning and disinfection of reusable health -care textiles such as:

- x Laundering cycles which consist of an initial flush, main wash, bleaching, rinsing and souring, followed by drying, pressing as needed, folding and appropriate storage
- x Achieving minimum temperatures and cycle times such as a washing temperature of at least 71°C for a minimum of 25 minutes
- x Achieving minimum disinfection concentrations such as a total chlorine residual of 50 - 150 ppm in the bleach cycle
- x Adding a mild acid to the final rinse (souring) cycle which rapidly shifts the pH to inactivate micro- organisms and remove residual alkali which reduces the risk of skin irritation among patients
- x Laundering areas which physically separate the dirty area for receiving and handling used textiles from the clean area, provide one -way workflow and meet ventilation parameters

Rendering laundered textile s hygienically clean depends on the effectiveness of the laundering process. Hygienically clean is defined by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) as being “free of pathogens in sufficient numbers to cause human illness. ”

Responsibility

Role	Responsibility
Medical director	<ul style="list-style-type: none">x Ensuring conformance with the accreditation standards, policies, rules, procedures and guidelines for the NHMSFAP, and the Bylawsx Ensuring their laundry provider (third -party or non - hospital facility) is accredited and/or certified by a health-care or food safety laundry accreditation/certification body
NHMSFAP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">x Review documentation to verify that all reusable textiles