

<b>Section:</b> UTMB On-line Documentation	<b>2.16 - Policy</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	<b>2003 - Revised</b>
<b>Topic:</b> Laundry and Linen Services	<b>1978 - Author</b>

## Laundry and Linen Services

<b>Purpose</b>	To identify infection control practices for the processing of clean and dirty linen.
<b>Audience</b>	Employees of UTMB laundry facility
<b>Personnel</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Handwashing shall be performed before and after each patient contact and at other times as required (see policy: Handwashing for All Hospital Employees).</li> <li>• Personnel shall comply with Employee Health Center guidelines for their area.</li> <li>• Eating and drinking shall be confined to designated areas only.</li> <li>• Suspected or known exposure to or acquisition of an infectious or communicable disease shall be reported to the Department of Healthcare Epidemiology or to the Employee Health Center immediately.</li> <li>• Personnel shall wear gowns, masks and gloves when sorting soiled linen. These items shall be removed when leaving the area and shall not be reused.</li> <li>• All cuts and lacerations shall be covered with a waterproof dressing.</li> <li>• The Universal Precautions policy shall be followed for any and all contact with blood and body fluids.</li> <li>• A clean uniform shall be worn daily.</li> <li>• Soiled linen shall be bagged to contain any and all body fluids.</li> <li>• Soiled linen shall be removed from patient care areas at least daily and more often as required.</li> <li>• All clean linen shall be stored and transported in carts used exclusively for this purpose, or in linen carts which have been decontaminated after being used for soiled laundry.</li> <li>• The soiled linen carts shall be cleaned at least daily, and the clean linen carts cleaned weekly.</li> <li>• Laundry chutes shall be cleaned in accordance with institutional schedules for chute maintenance. The doors to laundry chutes shall be kept closed and shall be tight fitting.</li> </ul>
<b>Facility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the laundry, dirty linen shall be separated from the clean linen as it is</li> </ul>

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**Practices**

being processed.

- Dirty linen shall be clearly separated from areas where clean linen is handled.
- Laundry slings shall be designated for clean or dirty linen.
- Ventilation air shall flow from the cleanest to the dirtiest areas.
- Mobile equipment, scales and tables, and all areas of the department shall be cleaned daily.
- Vents and ceilings shall be cleaned on a weekly basis.
- Linen being transported to and from the laundry shall be covered. The inside of the laundry van used to transport laundry to and from the facility shall be routinely cleaned and any blood or body fluid spill cleaned up immediately.
- Linen shall be washed with a detergent in water hotter than 71<sup>o</sup>C (160<sup>o</sup>F) for 25 minutes.
- Heavily soiled items (such as floor mops) shall be laundered separately from linens.
- The temperature of the driers shall be no lower than 175<sup>o</sup>F.
- The temperature of the ironer shall be no lower than 325<sup>o</sup>F.
- Floors shall be damp cleaned daily using a disinfectant solution. Horizontal surfaces shall be damp dusted daily.
- Housekeeping in the laundry is a continuous process. Floors shall be cleaned several times daily.
- Linen Room Galveston. The linen room in Galveston shall follow all procedures required in the main processing plant.