


Name of Policy:	Home Laundering of Personal Scrubs	 <p>Effective Date: 11/30/2009 Initial Effective Date: 4/19/2004</p>
Policy Number:	3364-109-EQP-804	
Department:	Infection Control University Health Services Hospital Administration	
Approving Officer:	Chairman, Infection Control Committee Vice President & Executive Director Chief of Staff	
Responsible Agent:	Infection Control Practitioner	
Scope:	The University of Toledo Medical Center and its Medical Staff	
<input type="checkbox"/> New policy proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Major revision of existing policy		<input type="checkbox"/> Minor/technical revision of existing policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

Surgical attire/apparel will be cared for according to the following guidelines to prevent the transmission of disease producing organisms.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To provide guidelines for the care and home laundering of surgical attire/apparel in order to reduce the risk of nosocomial infections in patients, employees, and visitors

(C) Procedure


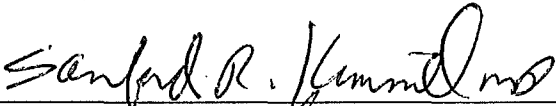
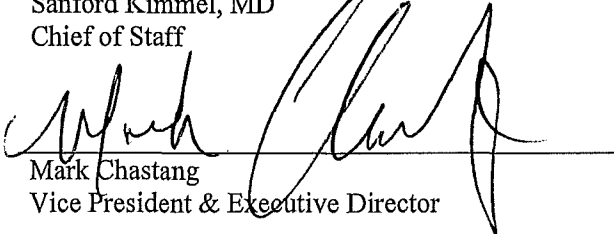
Scrubs, Uniforms:

Employees must follow appropriate procedures for home laundering of personal scrubs.

- Wash scrubs separately from other clothing: Sort laundry based on fabric type, color and soil level. Read care tags and test for color fastness, if necessary.
- Pre-treat a few small spots; pre-soak deep set soils, old stains, and extensive staining; pre-wash heavily soiled garments.
- Do not overload the machine.
- Washer controls: Choose proper water temperature (warm is recommended), water level (based on size of the load), and wash cycle; then turn washer on.
- Observe detergent instructions: Choose a detergent based on type of soil, need for disinfectant (sanitized), safety to colors, and personal preference.
- Add detergent based on size of load, water hardness, and degree of soil, add the recommended amount of detergent while tub is filling.
- Add chlorine bleach (if desired): Chlorine bleach should only be used if it has been determined that colors are fast and will not fade or bleed off. If machine has a liquid chlorine dispenser, follow washer usage instructions. If not, for a full load, dilute 1 Cup of liquid with 1 quart of water and add to the washer water 5 minutes after the cycle has started.

- Put clothes in washer one piece at a time, after the detergent has dissolved. Do not overload.
- Add liquid fabric softener (if desired). Liquid fabric softener can be added by using the machine's built in dispenser, during rinse or via a floating dispenser. Fabric sheets, as an alternative, can be used during the dry cycle.
- Remove items properly for drying. This helps prevent mildew, dye transfer, and excessive wrinkling.
- Once scrubs are in the dryer, clean filter, use proper drying cycle and remove garments promptly and fold.

Good hygienic practices should be followed before arrival to the workplace to protect uniform from contamination. Freshly laundered uniforms are expected to be worn to work daily. Uniforms should be removed as soon as the individual returns home.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p> _____ Julie Westering, MD Chairman, Infection Control Committee</p> <p> _____ Sanford Kimmel, MD Chief of Staff</p> <p> _____ Mark Chastang Vice President & Executive Director</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed By: Infection Control Committee</i></p>	<p>Review/Revision Date: 3/26/2007 11/30/2009</p> <p>Next Review Date: 11/1/2012</p>
<p>Policies Superseded by This Policy: 31:EQP-804</p>	