

Title: LAUNDRY

Responsibility: Trained Inpatient Behavioral Health staff

Purpose of Guidelines: The Kobacker Inpatient Unit maintains a laundry procedure which ensures infection control and patient safety. The laundering of personal clothing can be a potential source for the transmission of infection.

Procedure:

1. Laundry supplies will be kept in the locked laundry room.
2. Staff will gather patient clothing to be washed and will perform the laundering for all patients. Staff will wear gloves when handling patient laundry.
3. There is to be only one patient's clothes in the machine at a time.
4. All washable items are to be washed using a temperature setting/detergent according to manufacturer's recommendations.
5. Clothing should be dried according to the manufacturer's label.
6. Soiled clothing is stored separately in the patient's room before being collected by the staff.
7. Fold and store clothes in a clean area separate from the dirty clothing.
8. Staff are instructed to clean the inside and outside of the washer daily using a designated disinfectant after each patient's laundry.
9. Annual maintenance of the equipment includes replacement of internal filters and cleaning of vents.
10. The dryer lint trap is to be cleaned after each use.
11. For a patient with a known infection, the washer will be run with hot water and the dryer on the high setting.
12. When a patient who has an infection that may be transmitted via the laundry process, a member of the nursing staff sprays inside and outside the equipment using quat number 5. The equipment is to be allowed to air dry before the next cycle of laundry is started.

Reviewed by: Lindsay Watson, MSW, LSW, Department Administrator

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Revised:

Reviewed by Policy & Standard Committee: 2/2020, 12/2022