NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES
INPATIENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Guideline: **Laundry**

Policy Number Superseded:

Responsibility: All trained inpatient behavioral health staff

Purpose of Guideline: 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.

UTOLEDO HEALTH

Effective Date:
October 2025

Initial Effective Date:
February 2020

Procedure:

(A)   Laundry supplies will be kept in the locked laundry room.

(B)   Staff will gather patient clothing to be washed and will perform the laundering for all patients.

(C)   There is to be only one patient's clothes in the machine at a time.

(D)   All washable items are to be washed using a temperature setting and detergent according to manufacturer's recommendations.

(E)   Clothing should be dried according to manufacturer's label.

(F)   Soiled clothing is stored separately in the patient's room before being collected by the staff.

(G)   Fold and store clothes in a clean area, separate from the dirty clothing.

(H)   Staff are instructed to clean the inside and outside of the washer daily using a designated disinfectant after each patient's laundry.

(I)   Annual maintenance of the equipment includes replacement of internal filters
        and cleaning of vents.

(J)   The dryer lint trap is to be cleaned after each use.

(K)   For all patients with a known infection, the washer will be run with hot water
        and the dryer on the high setting,

(L)   When a patient 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.

Approved by: Initial effective date:
  Kurt Kless, MSN, MBA, RN, NE-BC   February 2020
  Chief Nursing Officer
                                                Review/Revision Date:
Review/Revision Completed by: December 2022
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