

## 1.20 Laundry Facilities Usage in Patient Care Areas

**Purpose** To provide guidelines for the use of the washer and dryer in patient care areas

**Audience** All individuals using the laundry facilities in the patient care areas

- Policy**
- Soiled linen should be handled as little as possible and with minimum agitation to prevent contamination of the air and persons handling linen.
  - Healthcare workers sorting soiled laundry should wear gloves and a gown.
  - Patients who are using the laundry facilities for their personal items are not required to wear gloves and a gown, but are encouraged to wash their hands after handling soiled laundry.
  - Wash water should contain 50-150 ppm (1/4 cup) of chlorine bleach if the laundry is heavily contaminated with microorganisms (e.g., with feces, urine, blood, or other body fluids).
  - Laundry chemicals should be used at proper concentrations and should be suitable for low temperature washing.
  - Clean linen should be handled, transported, and stored by methods that will ensure its cleanliness.