

## Standard PCI.04.01

The infection prevention and control program follows evidence-based guidelines related to cleaning and disinfection of laundry, linens, and scrub attire provided by the hospital.

### Intent of PCI.04.01

Laundering methods comply with local and national laws and regulations and follow guidelines from recognized infection control agencies to ensure safe and thorough processing of laundry, linens, and scrub attire provided by the hospital. Handling of laundry, linens, and hospital-issued scrub attire includes the following processes:

- Collection
- Sorting
- Washing
- Drying
- Folding
- Distribution
- Storage

Staff handling laundry, linens, and scrub attire follow standard precautions and use appropriate transmission-based precautions when handling laundry and linens from isolation rooms. Contaminated laundry, linens, and hospital-issued scrubs that are soaked in blood or other body fluids are separated from other soiled items and are labeled as contaminated to alert staff to the increased infection risk.

Laundering follows guidelines from infection control agencies, including the following:

- Water temperatures
- Length of wash cycles
- Use of cleaning agents, such as bleach and detergents
- Storage, handling, and transport of clean laundered items

Laundry, linens, and hospital-issued scrub attire are processed, transported, and stored in a way that prevents cross contamination of soiled and clean items. When laundry is performed outside of the hospital by a contractor, the hospital must have a means to monitor the quality of the service (*see also* Standard GLD.05.00).

The hospital identifies areas where staff are required to wear hospital-issued scrub attire, including white coats or jackets (for example, the Central Sterile Supply Department, operating theatres, the neonatal intensive care unit). The hospital also implements practices that decrease the risk of infection related to white coats and laboratory jackets. Staff are educated on when to change into scrub attire and when they must cover or change scrub sets. Staff who are not provided hospital-issued scrub attire receive education on home laundering practices to minimize the risk of carrying an infection between the hospital and the community.

### Measurable Elements of PCI.04.01

1. Laundering methods comply with local and national laws and regulations and follow guidelines from recognized infection control agencies.
2. Standard precautions are used when handling laundry, linens, and hospital-issued scrub attire, and appropriate transmission-based precautions are used as indicated by infection risk.
3. Laundry, linens, and hospital-issued scrub attire are transported, processed, and stored in a manner that prevents cross contamination of soiled and clean items.
4. Staff wear clean hospital-issued scrub attire in critical areas identified by the hospital, in accordance with applicable infection control, national health care industry standards, and hospital policy.