



# DEDER GENERAL HOSPITAL

## Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Laundry Services

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## **1. Purpose**

To outline the procedures for safe collection, transportation, cleaning, disinfection, drying, and storage of soiled and contaminated linens and textiles in healthcare settings to prevent healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).

## **2. Scope**

This SOP applies to all personnel involved in handling, transporting, cleaning, and storing healthcare laundry including bed linens, staff uniforms, towels, and patient gowns.

## **3. Responsibilities**

- ☞ **Laundry Staff:** Follow safe handling, PPE, and disinfection procedures.
- ☞ **Unit Heads:** Ensure segregation and timely delivery of soiled laundry.
- ☞ **IPC Focal Person:** Supervise infection prevention compliance.
- ☞ **Maintenance Staff:** Ensure laundry equipment is functional and clean.

## **4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- ☞ Heavy-duty gloves
- ☞ Waterproof apron or gown
- ☞ Closed shoes or boots
- ☞ Face mask and eye protection (if splashing is anticipated)

## 5. Procedure

### 5.1 Collection and Segregation of Soiled Laundry

- ☞ Collect soiled linen from patient care areas in designated laundry trolleys or bags (leak-proof and clearly labeled).
- ☞ Do not shake linens to avoid aerosolization.
- ☞ Sort at the point of use; heavily soiled items should be pre-treated or specially contained.

### 5.2 Transportation

- ☞ Transport in covered, leak-proof containers.
- ☞ Avoid transporting clean and soiled laundry together.

### 5.3 Sorting and Pre-treatment

- ☞ Sort in designated dirty area.
- ☞ Remove solid waste and soak heavily soiled items in 0.5% chlorine solution for 10 minutes.

### 5.4 Washing and Disinfection

- ☞ Wash at 70-90°C for 25 minutes or with chemical disinfectants.
- ☞ Machine wash preferred; manual wash requires full PPE.

### 5.5 Drying and Ironing

- ☞ Dry in machine or sun in clean area.
- ☞ Iron using hot press or iron.

## **5.6 Storage**

- Store in clean area, off the floor, protected from moisture and dust.

## **5.7 Distribution**

- Use clean trolleys.
- Do not mix clean and dirty laundry containers.

## **6. Spill Management**

- Wear full PPE
- Remove visible matter.
- Disinfect with 0.5% chlorine.
- Dispose materials as infectious waste.

## **7. Waste Disposal**

- Dispose unsalvageable laundry in infectious waste containers.
- Follow waste management SOP.

## **8. Monitoring and Compliance**

- IPC team conducts inspections.
- Maintain laundry logbook (loads, incidents, maintenance).

## **9. References**

1. Ethiopia National IPC Reference Manual, Volume 1
2. WHO Guidelines on Core Components of IPC Programs
3. CDC Healthcare Laundry Guidelines