



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