**PURPOSE:**

Although soiled linen has been shown to be a source of large numbers of pathogenic organisms, the risk of actual disease transmission when laundry is rendered hygienically cleaned is negligible. Hygienic approaches for handling and processing procedures are recommended to reduce the risk of cross-infection.

CHLA will contract out with a commercial laundry service that processing linens in compliance with CDC and CMS standards.

**DEFINITIONS:**

1. **Soiled linen**- Laundry which has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or may contain sharps.
2. **Hygienically clean**- Fabrics, textiles, and clothing that is free of vegetative pathogens.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Clean linen arrives at CHLA in plastic linen carts provided by the commercial laundry service. Clean linen arriving from the vendor are covered with a clear plastic cover.
2. EVS staff empties these carts and place clean linen inside CHLA linen carts located in clinical areas.
   1. All laundry carts are to remain covered with the cover zipped when not in use.
3. EVS staff collects soiled linen from clinical areas and places them in blue bags.
   1. Any employee handling soiled linen will wear gloves and gown at minimum.
   2. All soiled linens will be collected in a manner that minimizes agitation to prevent contamination of the environment and personnel and should be appropriately bagged and securely tied or otherwise closed in fluid-resistant blue bags at the site of use, prior to being transported to the processing area. Staff should not hold contaminated linens/bagged contaminated linen near their own bodies or squeeze them.
4. EVS staff transfer soiled linen blue bags into the plastic carts provided by the commercial laundry vendor.
5. The commercial laundry vendor collects the soiled linen that are stored in blue linen bags in the plastic linen carts. The laundry vendor washes and cleans the carts with a disinfectant before returning them back to CHLA.

**REFERENCES:**

1. APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology. Chapter 101: Laundry, Patient Linens, Textiles, and Uniforms, 2009.
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**POLICY OWNER:**

*Director, Accreditation & Licensing, Infection Prevention, and Emergency Management*