

CENTRAL STATE HOSPITAL
PROTOCOL

SUBJECT: SPECIAL LAUNDRY PROCEDURE

ANNUAL REVIEW MONTH: September

RESPONSIBLE FOR REVIEW: CSH Safety Director

LAST REVIEW DATE: March 2011

According to CSH policy, the personal clothing of most clients can be laundered on the living units. However, the clothing of persons known to have active infections such as MRSA, VRE, C-diff, Pediculosis, Scabies, Head Lice, and Pinworms, are considered contaminated and should not be laundered on the living units. Instead, these items require special laundry procedures according to the following procedure.

1. The clothing of these individuals requiring laundering (including heel protectors) must be double bagged, sealed, and secured using clear impervious plastic bags. A “Contaminated Clothing” sticker must be securely affixed to the outer surface along with the client’s identification information including his/her name, building, living unit, and room number. Contaminated clothing belonging to more than one client must not be bagged or laundered together. Rather they must be bagged and handled separately throughout the entire process. **Important: Persons handling contaminated clothing must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.**
2. Once the clothing is securely bagged, sealed, and labeled, they must be taken immediately to a designated contaminated laundry pick up site and placed in a covered container that is clearly labeled “Contaminated Clothing”. The designated laundry pick up sites and the contaminated clothing containers must be safely secured away from clients and meet Safety, Environmental, and Infection Control requirements. Check with your housekeeping representative, your EOC representative and your ICN when selecting these sites. It is recommended that a single designated pick up site be selected to serve an entire building. For example, one designated pick up site for the Allen Building, one designated pick up site for the Cook Building, one designated pick up site for the Boland Building, and one designated pick up site for the Boone Building (Craig Center). Of course the Broad Street Houses will each have separate designated pick-up sites. **Important: These bags must not be left in the client’s room, bathroom, or any other location that is accessible to clients.**
3. To initiate special laundry pick up, the unit nurse or designee must contact the Housekeeping Director (telephone # 478-445-8120, pager # 888-280-7515, or email address LMJordan @dhr.state.ga.us) and provide the following information:

- a. The name or names of the client(s) requiring special laundry service
 - b. The building and unit upon which the client(s) resides
 - c. The exact pick up location for the client(s)'s clothing (e.g. building, unit, room number).
4. Laundry/housekeeping staff will pick up the contaminated clothing twice a week and deliver the items to the Contaminated Clothing Laundry Center (CCLC) for processing. If more frequent pick up is necessary, special arrangements must be made with the Housekeeping Director. The bags containing the contaminated clothing must be placed in a covered container in the transport vehicle during transport. **Important: These transport containers must be disinfected after each use, using a hospital approved disinfecting agent.**
 5. Persons working in the CCLC must take special care to avoid possible cross contamination and use the appropriate personal protective equipment at all times. The clear impervious plastic bags used to hold the contaminated clothing must be discarded in the Bio-Hazard receptacle (located in the washroom) immediately after placing the clothing in the washing machine.
 6. After these items have been washed and dried to specification, they will be folded, packaged in a clean plastic bag, labeled according to the above noted client identification method, and returned to the proper living area. **Important: Bags containing the clean clothes must not be placed in the covered transport containers used for transporting the contaminated clothing during pick up. Similarly, the bags containing the clean clothes must not be placed in the Contaminated Clothing containers at the designated pick-up sites.**
 7. Towels, sheets, bedspreads, and other linens used by these individuals do not require this special laundry procedure. The commercial laundry equipment used in the Central Laundry effectively cleans and decontaminates these items.

Living area staff should consult with their Infection Control Nurse should questions arise regarding the safe handling, storage, and laundering of potentially contaminated client clothing.

Approved:

This policy has been approved by the RHA and the CSH Clinical Director.