



**MONTANA STATE HOSPITAL
POLICY AND PROCEDURE**

**INFECTION CONTROL – CARE
OF CONTAMINATED ARTICLES**

Effective Date: June 15, 2017

Policy: IC-07

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- I. PURPOSE:** To identify methods for handling clothing and linen contaminated with bloodborne pathogens, other disease causing organisms, or parasites.
- II. POLICY:** Contaminated personal articles and linen will be decontaminated before they are returned to the patient or to the unit.
- III. DEFINITIONS:**
- A. Standard Precautions - the routine and consistent use of appropriate barrier protection to prevent skin and mucous membrane transmission of microorganisms resulting from contact with blood and body fluids, and as part of the practice of **general hygiene**. **All human blood and certain human body fluids are to be treated as if known to be infectious for HIV, HBV and other bloodborne pathogens.**
- B. Bloodborne Pathogens - means pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV).
- C. Other potentially infectious materials means:
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| amniotic fluid | pleural fluid |
| body tissue | saliva (in dental procedures) |
| cerebrospinal fluid | semen |
| organs from a human | synovial fluid |
| pericardial fluid | vaginal secretions |
| peritoneal fluid | |
- Any body fluid that is visibly contaminated with blood and all body fluids in situations where it is difficult or impossible to differentiate between body fluids.
HIV - containing cell or tissue cultures, organ cultures and **HIV** or **HBV** containing culture medium or other solutions.
- D. Contaminated - means the presence or the reasonably anticipated presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials on an item or surface.

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- E. Contaminated Laundry - means laundry which has been soiled with blood or other potentially infectious materials or may contain sharps.

IV. RESPONSIBILITIES:

- A. Nursing Staff: in cases of contaminated clothing, nursing staff are responsible for care of patient clothing items.
- B. Housekeeping Manager: for collection and decontamination of non-washable contaminated or infested articles.

V. PROCEDURE:

- A. Laundry contaminated with blood and body fluids:
1. Any employee handling contaminated laundry will observe Standard Precautions; wearing protective gloves and a protective gown.
 2. Contaminated linen will be bagged separately from personal items using the same procedure as for personal items (see 3 below).
 3. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. Sort personal laundry items into washable and non-washable piles. Care will be taken to separate items requiring dry cleaning (e.g., a wool sweater or leather coat).
 - b. All shoes are to be bagged separately in a single clear plastic bag.
 - c. Wipe non-washable items such as restraint belts, leather shoes, belts and wallets with approved disinfectant solution.
 - d. Sort washable items into light and darks which will be kept separate throughout the laundry process.
 - e. Make a duplicate itemized list of all the patient's personal contaminated items utilizing the Laundry Receipt Form (attachment B). Items on the lists should match the items in each bag.
 - f. First, place separated washable articles in, a "Dissolvable Bag". (Items bagged together will be disinfected together regardless of the consequences.)
 - g. Then, place dissolvable bag into a clear plastic bag. **Do not overfill plastic bags.**
 - h. Attach one copy of the Laundry Receipt Form to the outside of the corresponding bag(s) of laundry and put the other copy in the ward file.
 - i. Place the now double bagged contaminated laundry into the clearly marked clothing receptacle(s) located in designated areas on each unit.

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4. All Restraints including but not limited to Posey, wrist/waist, full bed restraints, transport blankets, non-tear gowns, and non-tear blankets
 - a. Place infected/contaminated restraints after each use in a clear bag, attach the completed Laundry Receipt Form to the bag, and send to laundry for laundering.
 5. Laundry personnel will use the Laundry Receipt Form to sort and track the patient's personal contaminated items, contaminated linens, restraints, and other non-washable items needing disinfection.
 6. Contaminated linen and washable personal laundry will be sent to the laundry service at Montana State Prison.
- B. Non-washable items contaminated with lice or other parasites:
1. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. Make a duplicate itemized list of all the patient's personal infested items utilizing the Laundry Receipt Form. Items on the lists should match the items in each bag.
 - b. "Clear bag" all infested non-washable items and attach one copy of the itemized list.
 - c. Infested non-washable items include: restraint belts, wallets, leather belts, and shoes.
 - d. Send the infested items to the Housekeeping Manager.
 - e. Housekeeping Manager or designee will spray the inside of the bag(s) and contaminated articles with the appropriate decontaminate. The bag and contents must be left for 24 hours, then will be emptied and returned to the unit.
- C. Contaminated disposable items:
1. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. Place disposable contaminated items in a red bag.
 - b. Dispose of red bag in the contaminated biohazard receptacles that are placed and labeled as biohazard in the sheds off of D-wing and Spratt unit.
- D. Human waste and body fluids:
1. Nursing personnel will:
 - a. Empty bedpans, commode basins or toilet hats into the toilet or the hopper.
 - b. Manual rinsing of bedpans, commode basins or toilet hats should not occur in the patient's bathroom or room.
 - c. Cover the human waste collection containers for transport.
 - d. Personal protective equipment will be used if deemed necessary or indicated to the situation when handling soiled commodes, bedpans or toilet hats.

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- e. When handling soiled linen, solid fecal matter that can be removed with a gloved hand should be disposed into the toilet, bedpan, or hopper.
- f. Dispose of bedpans, or toilet hats in the general waste disposal.

- VI. REFERENCES:** Novascotia Health and Wellness. (2010). Guidelines for Management of Human Waste and Body Fluids in Long Term Care and Acute Facilities, 2nd Edition.
- VII. COLLABORATED WITH:** Infection Control Nurse, Safety Officer; Housekeeping Manager.
- VIII. RESCISSIONS:** IC-07, Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles, dated June 1, 2017; IC-07, Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles, dated March 10, 2017; IC-07, Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles dated February 24, 2014; IC-07, Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles dated May 18, 2010; IC-07, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated October 30, 2006; IC-07, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated December 18, 2002; Policy IC-07, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated February 14, 2000; IC-12-03, *Infection Control – Care of Contaminated Articles of Clothing and Linen* dated March 7, 1995.
- IX. DISTRIBUTION:** All hospital policy manuals.
- X. ANNUAL REVIEW AND AUTHORIZATION:** This policy is subject to annual review and authorization for use by either the Administrator or the Medical Director with written documentation of the review per ARM § 37-106-330.
- XI. FOLLOW-UP RESPONSIBILITY:** Infection Control Nurse.
- XII. ATTACHMENTS:**
- A. Posey Velcro Restraints Laundering Instructions
 - B. Montana State Hospital Laundry Receipt
 - C. Care of Contaminated Articles - Main Hospital
 - D. Care of Contaminated Articles - FMHF

Signatures:

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Medical Director