

LAUNDRY PRACTICES INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



The Joint Commission Big Book of Checklists

This resource was excerpted from [The Joint Commission Big Book of Checklists](#), available for pre-order now. Release date: August 29, 2016.

This checklist includes questions to ask to assess the infection control risks in your laundry practices. You can use this tool to review your laundry practices and minimize laundry-related infection control risks. Answers to all questions should ideally be Y for Yes (unless they aren't applicable).

Organization: _____ Department/Unit: _____

Date of Review: _____

Reviewer: _____

* Generally, OME application of this checklist would occur within a licensed healthcare facility, such as an inpatient hospice, with laundry services.

Transportation [AHC, BHC, CAH, HAP, NCC, OBS, OME]	Y	N	N/A	If N (No), Note Changes Needed
Is clean laundry separated from dirty laundry during transport in some physical way?				
Is clean linen properly covered or sealed to prevent contamination during transport?				
Is all dirty laundry put into a laundry bag before putting it into a laundry chute, if a chute is used?				
Are laundry bags closed tightly before being put into a laundry chute, if a chute is used?				
Storage [AHC, BHC, CAH, HAP, NCC, OBS, OME]	Y	N	N/A	If N (No), Note Changes Needed
Is clean linen stored in a room or space dedicated to that purpose?				
Are linen storage areas free of dirt and debris?				
Are linen storage shelves easily accessible for cleaning?				
Is linen stored in a way that allows ventilation, lighting, and fire sprinklers to operate normally?				
If there is a door to the clean linen area, is it kept closed when not in use?				
Is the clean linen area a low-traffic area?				
Laundry Facility and Equipment [AHC, BHC, CAH, HAP, NCC, OBS, OME]	Y	N	N/A	If N (No), Note Changes Needed

LAUNDRY PRACTICES INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



The Joint Commission Big Book of Checklists

Is the dirty laundry receiving area kept at negative pressure, compared to the clean laundry areas? [N/A for OME]				
Are handwashing facilities and appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) available for workers?				
Is laundry equipment properly maintained?				
Is damp laundry removed from machines in a timely way?				

Laundry Handling [AHC, BHC, CAH, HAP, NCC, OBS, OME]	Y	N	N/A	If N (No), Note Changes Needed
Is dirty laundry handled in a way to minimize agitation (to avoid contamination of air, surfaces, and people)?				
Is sorting of dirty laundry handled away from patient care areas?				
Are leak-resistant containers used to hold laundry contaminated with blood and other body substances?				
Is the labeling system for dirty laundry clear and easily understood?				
Are laundry chutes, if used, properly designed, maintained, and used?				
Laundry Process [AHC, BHC, CAH, HAP, NCC, OBS, OME]	Y	N	N/A	If N (No), Note Changes Needed
Are hot-water laundry cycles run with detergent at $\geq 160^{\circ}\text{F}$ ($\geq 71^{\circ}\text{C}$) for ≥ 25 minutes?				
Are low-temperature laundry cycles ($< 160^{\circ}$) run with appropriate chemicals at appropriate concentration?				
Are special laundering instructions followed for items requiring sterility in patient care?				
Are manufacturers' recommendations followed when cleaning fabrics with coated or laminated surfaces?				
Is dry cleaning avoided for routine laundering?				
Are any antimicrobial fabrics used and cleaned properly?				

LAUNDRY PRACTICES INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST



The Joint Commission Big Book of Checklists

Are damp textiles and fabrics not left overnight in machines?				
Staff [AHC, BHC, CAH, HAP, NCC, OBS]	Y	N	N/A	If N (No), Note Changes Needed
Is laundry staff trained in infection control efforts as they relate to their job tasks?				
Is laundry staff using appropriate PPE?				
Is laundry staff using appropriate hand hygiene methods?				
Is other organization staff aware of laundry procedures as they relate to overall infection control efforts?				

© 2016 The Joint Commission. May be adapted for internal use.