

## SFHIPC9 - SQA Code HD41 04

### Minimise the risk of spreading infection when removing used linen



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#### Overview

This standard concerns the removal of used and soiled linen in such a way as to minimise the risk of contamination and cross infection. It applies in all health and social care environments, including community and domiciliary settings, and ambulance care settings.

This standard does not cover the removal of radioactive linen or linen from patients/service users with known infectious diseases, where additional precautions will be required.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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#### Performance criteria

*You must be able to:*

- P1 perform effective hand hygiene and put on personal protective equipment in accordance with national and local policy/guidance
- P2 assemble the equipment and supplies required to safely remove used linen and move the equipment as close as possible to the point of use
- P3 where you are removing linen with a patient/service user present, explain to them what you are going to do, proceed in such a way as to maintain their dignity and safety throughout, and ensure they are made comfortable at the end of the procedure
- P4 ensure that no extraneous items including patient/service user belongings, used sharps or other clinical equipment are inadvertently discarded with the used linen
- P5 prior to linen removal use paper towels to remove any solid faeces or vomit and discard in correctly colour coded waste receptacle in accordance with national/local policy
- P6 remove the used linen, avoiding shaking, dispersal of any body fluids/skin cells, contact with clothing, the floor or other surfaces, and place each item in the designated receptacle, taking care not to wrap linen together, not to re-handle it and not to over fill the receptacle
- P7 place used and soiled linen into the appropriate colour bags/receptacle ensuring correct storage in accordance with local policy
- P8 where an exposure occurs while removing linen:
  - P8.1 perform first aid immediately to the exposed area, following national/local guidelines
  - P8.2 report the incident immediately and seek further advice on the need for further medical care
  - P8.3 document the incident, following local policies
- P9 place any disposable personal protective equipment in the appropriate waste receptacle immediately after use and perform effective hand hygiene promptly

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#### Knowledge and understanding

*You need to know and understand:*

- K1 relevant standard infection prevention and control precautions, national legislation/guidance and local policies/procedures
- K2 health and safety regulations covering your area of work
- K3 regulations and guidelines concerning hazardous materials
- K4 the chain of infection
- K5 how to access facilities for hand hygiene
- K6 how to access first aid provision
- K7 effective techniques for maintaining hand hygiene
- K8 the appropriate personal protective equipment to use when handling linen
- K9 how to safely put on, remove and dispose of personal protective equipment
- K10 how to segregate and bag used and soiled categories of linen
- K11 the different colour-coded bags and waste receptacles available and the correct use of each
- K12 your own role and responsibilities, and the responsibilities of others
- K13 how to complete the relevant documentation required in your area of activity
- K14 how to report adverse events, accidents and incidents
- K15 how and when to report issues that are within and outside your scope of practice

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### **Additional Information**

#### **Links to other NOS**

There are additional NOS on the Skills for Health website relating to Decontamination.

#### **External Links**

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: Core 3 Health, safety and security

The candidate and assessor must only sign below when all Performance Criteria and Knowledge points have been met.

**Unit assessed as being complete**

<b>Candidate's Name:</b>	
<b>Candidate's Signature:</b>	
<b>Date submitted to assessor as complete:</b>	

<b>Assessor's Name:</b>	
<b>Assessor's Signature:</b>	
<b>Date assessed as complete:</b>	

**Internal Verification —**

to be completed in accordance with centre's IV strategy

<b>Evidence for this Unit was sampled on the following date/s:</b>	<b>IV's Signature</b>	<b>IV's Name</b>

This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre's IV strategy.

<b>Date of admin check</b>	<b>IV's Signature</b>	<b>IV's Name</b>

**Unit completion confirmed**

<b>IV's Name:</b>	
<b>IV's Signature:</b>	
<b>Date complete:</b>	