



INFECTION CONTROL POLICY HEALTH CENTRE

College council will review this policy every three years or as directed by DET

Date approved: March 2018

Date of next review: 2021

RATIONALE

Infectious waste includes any waste contaminated with blood or body fluids, including linen and sanitary napkins. Such waste must be handled and disposed of in a way that will minimise the risks associated with it.

PROCEDURES

The following procedures will be followed by College staff in dealing with Health Centre linen:

1. Uncontaminated Linen

- a) Staff whose responsibility is to wash and sort linen should wear gloves at all times.
- b) When uncontaminated with body substances, the bed linen and clothing from patients/clients need no special handling.

2. Contaminated Linen

Clothing or linen soiled with body fluids should be washed as follows:

- a) The staff member responsible for washing the item should wear gloves.
- b) Any solid matter should be removed using paper towels and / or cold running water.
- c) The item should be placed in a strong solution of household bleach for thirty minutes (as per manufacturer's instructions).
- d) The item should be laundered in hot water and detergent separately from non-infectious material.
- e) In the case where bleach may damage a fabric, the item should be thoroughly rinsed in cold water to remove infectious material and then washed in hot, soapy water.
- f) Drying and ironing procedures can also assist in decontamination.

N.B. If articles are stained with blood, they should be put through a cold rinse cycle first, then a full cycle hot wash with detergent. Discard items which cannot be cleaned.

3. Implementation

- a) The copies of the above procedures will be distributed to and discussed with relevant staff, published in the College Policy booklet and posted in the Health Centre and laundry.
- b) Health Centre staff will assume responsibility for overseeing implementation of the procedures.
- c) Procedures will be reviewed to ensure that they are in accordance with current practice and regulations.