Appendix 21: Handling Arrangements for Infected Linen

Isolation Room

- Carefully remove dirty bed linen from bed.
- Bagging of linen should be carried out immediately on removal from the bed.
- Dirty linen should be carefully handled and not shaken prior to bagging.
- Carefully place infected linen into a hot water soluble bag.
- The bag should then be sealed using the cold water soluble tie attached to the bag.

Isolation Room Lobby/Anteroom

- A polythene or nylon/polyester laundry bag, RED colour-coded in accordance with HSG(95)18 supported by a suitable bag holder will be kept in the isolation room lobby/anteroom.
- The sealed bag shall be placed in the RED colour-coded bag.
- The RED colour- coded bag shall be securely fastened when it is two-thirds full and an identification tag attached.
- The RED colour- coded bag shall remain in the lobby/anteroom to await collection by support staff.
- If the isolation room does not have a lobby, the member of staff who is working in the isolation room should place the water soluble bag into a RED colour-coded bag that is being held open by another member of staff who is directly outside the room. The RED colour-coded bag shall then be securely fastened and tagged and taken to the ward infected linen holding area.

Staff Changing Room

- Staff changing rooms should have designated dirty/clean areas if possible.
- Carefully place Scrubs into a hot water soluble bag immediately following removal in the dirty area.
- The bag should then be sealed using the cold water soluble tie attached to the bag..
- A RED colour-coded bag in accordance with HSG(95)18, supported by a suitable bag holder, will be kept in the staff changing room dirty side.
- Place the sealed bag in the RED colour-coded bag.
- The RED colour- coded bag shall be securely fastened when it is two-thirds full and an identification tag attached.
- The RED colour-coded bag shall remain in the staff changing room to await collection by support staff.

Collection at Staff Changing Room

- Support staff will collect RED colour-coded bags from the staff changing facility and handle carefully on to the open mesh type trolleys.

Collection at Isolation Room Lobby/Anteroom/ Ward infected lined holding area

- Support staff will collect RED colour-coded bags from the isolation facility lobby/anteroom or ward infected linen holding area and handle carefully onto open mesh type trolleys.
- On completion of bag collection from the designated area (including infected linen bags from local staff changing facilities), the trolley must be immediately taken to the dedicated infected linen storage area and covered by washable (to infected linen standard) full covers.

Infected Linen Storage Area

- Trusts to identify a dedicated infected linen storage area that has the necessary accommodation to enable loaded trolleys to be stored awaiting collection by the laundry vehicle.
- Storage areas should be protected from the elements, vermin proof and have washable surfaces with easy access for laundry vehicles.
- Storage Areas should be secure.

Collection at Storage Area

- If a vehicle is used to transport infected linen to the laundry, simultaneous transport of clean linen (or other goods) and infected linen is not permitted.
- The loaded trolleys will be transferred to the vehicle for onward transfer to the laundry with trolleys being restrained in the vehicle to restrict movement.

Laundry – Infected Linen Area

- The loaded trolleys will be transferred from the vehicle directly into the laundry.
- Under no circumstances should RED colour-coded bags be opened in the laundry and laundry sorted.
- The RED colour-coded bag must be transferred to the designated washer extractor before opening. This can be achieved by tipping the inner bag/s out of the outer colour-coded bag directly into the machine. The RED colour-coded bag (if washable) can then be placed in the machine followed by the trolley covers. If polythene RED colour-coded bags are used, these should be disposed off as Clinical Waste.
- After each transfer, the vehicle interior and trolleys must be disinfected by an approved infection control technique i.e. steam cleaning, at a suitable cleaning station.

Laundry – Clean Area

- The decontaminated trolleys are loaded with ward linen requirements and transferred to the vehicle.

Ward or Clean Linen Store