



Title	Infection Control Manual Section 4.13 – Laundering of Uniforms Policy
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4.13 HOME LAUNDERING OF UNIFORMS: POLICY

Aim: This policy addresses issues for clinical staff taking uniforms home for laundering

General points

Ideally, after every shift, clinical staff should send their uniforms to the Main Laundry at the BGH.

In some instances, agreed with their manager, there may be occasion whereby staff will need to take uniforms home for laundering to ensure a clean uniform for each shift, e.g. *(New staff awaiting full uniform compliment)*.

When there is an outbreak of infection, all staff caring for these patients must send their uniforms to the main laundry department as foul/infected linen (this includes staff that have permission to launder uniforms at home - see guidance below).

When uniforms are soiled with blood/body fluids, these uniforms must be sent to the main laundry department as foul/infected linen (Contamination with blood/body fluids including faeces: staff policy section 4.13 NHS Borders Infection Control Manual)

Staff known to be allergic to chemicals used by main laundry department

Staff who are allergic to chemicals, and have seen a member of the Occupational Health Service (OHS) will have received a letter of exemption from sending uniforms to the main laundry department. However in an infection outbreak or contamination of their uniform with blood/body fluids, uniforms must be sent to the main laundry department as foul/infected linen for decontamination and then re-laundered at home (to remove laundry detergent/chemical residues) prior to wearing the uniform(s).

Wearing of Uniforms

Staff must follow the [NHS Borders Dress Code](#)

Where changing facilities are accessible, staff should change in and out of uniform at work, changing out of uniform at the earliest opportunity at the end of their shift.

Staff must not wear uniforms while undertaking activities in public, such as shopping, unless these are an integral part of their duties. Other examples of wearing uniforms out-with the hospital areas are inter hospital transfers and provision of care in the community

Staff who work in the community setting, or who move between the hospital and community setting during the course of their work, should ensure their uniform tops are covered when travelling

LAUNDERING UNIFORMS AT HOME – GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

- place uniform(s) in a clean plastic bag (not yellow) before taking home
- at home, place uniform(s) into the washing machine and discard used plastic bag into domestic waste bag. Thoroughly wash and dry hands. Wash uniform(s) on cycle on their own i.e. without other clothing
- wash at highest temperature for the uniform (follow manufacturers instructions)
- at end of wash cycle, tumble dry the uniform(s) when possible – this is the preferred method of drying. If tumble drying is not feasible, dry as per normal practice
- iron uniform(s) using heat setting as per manufacturers instructions
- when uniform is cool from ironing, place uniform(s) into clean plastic bag ready for next shift of duty
- always adhere to good hand hygiene practice when laundering uniforms at home.

If any queries or further advice required, contact a member of the Infection Control or OHS.

For queries relating to the laundry service contact Laundry Manager or Deputy, BGH.