

# Advice for the Management of Patients Personal Laundry

Infection Prevention

## Aim

To provide patients and their relatives with advice for the use of patient laundry bags. Please contact the nurse for further advice.

## Is the hospital able to wash patients' own clothing?

The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust does not have an in house laundry to wash patients' personal clothing.

## What do I do if mine or my relative's clothing is soiled?

If your clothing becomes soiled staff will place it into a specially designed laundry bag. This will be labelled for you by our staff, who will keep it in the ward utility room until your family or friends can collect it.

## Do they need to remove the clothing from the bag before it is washed?

No - do not remove from bag. The orange and white bag has a strip which dissolves in water so that the clothing can be washed as normal, minimum of 40 degrees and the bag removed after the washing cycle. Do not place the bag in the tumble drier.

## What happens to the bag when the wash cycle is finished?

Once the cycle is complete the bag can be removed from the machine and disposed of with normal household waste.

The company which produces the bags recommend the following:

- Do not knot the bag, use the tie provided
- Do not overfill the bag; no more than two-thirds full
- Wrap wet linen within dry linen to prevent early dissolving of the bag
- Only launder bag and contents in one cycle, no additional laundry
- Not suitable for use in combination washer/dryers or tumble dryers

Due to the limited amount of space on wards and the fact that it is soiled laundry, it is important that your clothing is collected as soon as possible.

Please ask your family or friends to speak to the nurses about collecting your laundry.

**The prevention of infection is a major priority in all healthcare and everyone has a part to play.**

- **Please decontaminate your hands frequently for 20 seconds using soap and water or alcohol gel if available**
- **If you have symptoms of diarrhoea and/or vomiting, cough or other respiratory symptoms, a temperature or any loss of taste or smell please do not visit the hospital or any other care facility and seek advice from 111**
- **Keep the environment clean and tidy**
- **Let's work together to keep infections out of our hospitals and care homes.**

# What do I do with soiled laundry at home?

- It is important not to leave soiled clothing to soak in bowls of water as this can encourage the growth of germs. Clothing should be washed as soon as possible after it is taken home
- Soiled laundry can be washed safely in a well-maintained domestic washing machine
- If you wish, you can wear a pair of household gloves when you are handling the clothing
- The clothing should be washed and dried as per the instructions on the garment
- The plastic bag can be thrown away with the normal household rubbish
- The gloves you have worn should also be washed with soap and warm water and dried thoroughly before re-using them
- After handling soiled laundry you should wash your hands even if you have worn gloves

Advice regarding hand washing technique is on the next page.

## Hand Washing Technique

### Social Handwashing

For routine handwashing, soap and water is adequate - using the technique described. Recommended procedure when dealing with cases of Clostridium difficile and Rotavirus.

### Alcohol Rub

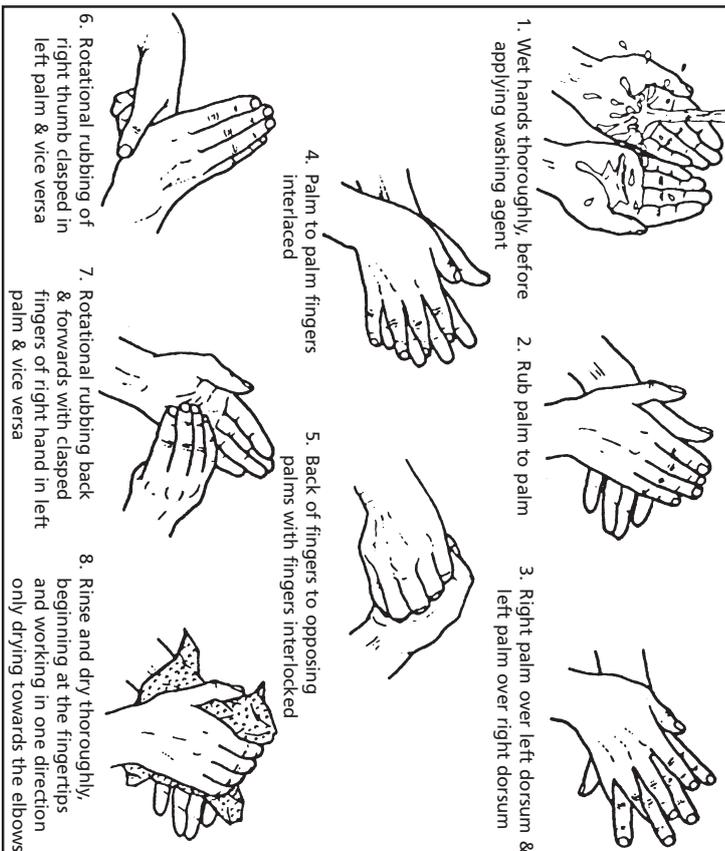
Apply one measure of Alcohol hand gel on to visibly clean hands, vigorously rub until evaporation of solution is complete and hands are dry - using the technique described.

### Surgical Hand Decontamination

Use trust approved solutions - Aqueous Iodine Antiseptic Solution or 4% Chlorhexidine Gluconate use the technique described.

### Remember

1. Keep nails short and clean.
2. Wet hands first under running water.
3. Handwash for a minimum of 15 seconds.
4. Pay particular attention to thumbs, finger tips and between fingers.
5. Rinse under running water.
6. Dry thoroughly.



## English

If you need information in another way like easy read or a different language please let us know.

If you need an interpreter or assistance please let us know.

## Lithuanian

Jeigu norėtumėte, kad informacija jums būtų pateikta kitu būdu, pavyzdžiui, supaprastinta forma ar kita kalba, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

Jeigu jums reikia vertėjo ar kitos pagalbos, prašome mums apie tai pranešti.

## Polish

Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać te informacje w innej postaci, na przykład w wersji łatwej do czytania lub w innym języku, prosimy powiedzieć nam o tym.

Prosimy poinformować nas również, jeżeli potrzebowaliby Państwo usługi tłumaczenia ustnego lub innej pomocy.

## Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਰੂਪ ਵਿਚ, ਜਿਵੇਂ ਪੜ੍ਹਨ ਵਿਚ ਆਸਾਨ ਰੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਦੂਜੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ, ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਭਾਸ਼ੀਏ ਦੀ ਜਾਂ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਨੂੰ ਦੱਸੋ।

## Romanian

Dacă aveți nevoie de informații în alt format, ca de exemplu caractere ușor de citit sau altă limbă, vă rugăm să ne informați.

Dacă aveți nevoie de un interpret sau de asistență, vă rugăm să ne informați.

## Traditional Chinese

如果您需要以其他方式了解信息，如易读或其他语种，请告诉我们。

如果您需要口译人员或帮助，请告诉我们。