

Guideline

Reprocessing Labor Slings

Purpose: To provide guidance for cleaning Labor Slings between patients to prevent the spread of infection.

General Concepts:

- I. Labor slings will be classified as a Healthcare Textile.
- II. Contaminated textiles can contain large numbers of microorganisms from body substances such as blood, skin, stool, urine, vomitus, and other body tissues and fluids.
- III. Hygienically clean healthcare textiles carry negligible risk to healthcare workers and patients.
 - A. Hygienically clean is defined as a clean state, free of pathogens in sufficient numbers to minimize risk of infection.
- IV. Labor slings will be hygienically cleaned after each patient use to prevent the spread of infections to other patients.

Procedure:

- V. Staff will follow Standard Precautions when handling used/soiled labor slings.
- VI. Labor slings that are grossly contaminated with blood or bodily fluids will be discarded in red bag biohazard waste regardless of patient's infectious status.
 - A. Grossly contaminated: saturated, dripping, caked with blood or bodily fluid, has the potential to release blood or other potentially infectious materials if compressed, or can flake off during handling.
- VII. Following patient use, non-grossly contaminated labor slings will be transported to the soiled utility room in a clear plastic bag and placed into the designated Supply Chain bin.
- VIII. Supply Chain will transport to in-house laundering area.
- IX. The labor sling will be washed in low-temperature using modern laundry detergents (i.e. Ecolab Flexylite & Advacare or equivalent) that are able to produce hygienically clean laundry without the presence of chlorine bleach.
 - A. Detergent concentrations determined by detergent manufacturer.
- X. Labor slings will be dried using low temperature or air dried.
- XI. Supply chain will return hygienically clean labor slings to the Birthplace.

Policy Owner:

Infection Prevention Department

Approved By:

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Related Information

External Ref:

CDC and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities, 2003.

APIC Text. Healthcare Textile Services. 2016