

PROCEDURE

TITLE: LINEN USAGE PROCEDURE

PURPOSE: To outline the process to ensure proper use of linen items for both patient comfort and safety.

SUPPORTIVE DATA: Linen changes will occur when needed rather than on a daily basis. An assessment will be performed by the care giver to determine what linen items need to be changed.

CONTENT:

PROCEDURE STEPS:

KEY POINTS:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Soiled linen is to be changed immediately.2. Basic linen for a bed consists of: one fitted sheet, one flat sheet and one pillow case and blanket.3. A bath towel and wash cloth will be supplied to every patient on a daily basis.4. Thermal blankets are to be changed only when soiled.5. All reject clean, torn or stained linen found on the linen cart will be placed in a reject bag designated for that purpose on each unit.6. An effort should be made to use blankets in the patient's room when they are transported from one department to another via wheelchair or stretcher.7. To provide increased warmth for the patient, place a bath blanket between patient and flat sheet.8. A bath blanket should continue to be used when bathing a patient. However, the bath blanket should be retained with the wash basin or placed at the bottom of the bed for daily re-use.9. Pillows should be used to position patients instead of thermal blankets. These pillowcases should be changed only when soiled. | <p>Linens should always be changed at the request of a patient or family member.</p> <p>Patient gowns, "pull" sheets and underpads should be provided when needed</p> <p>Additional ones may be provided if needed.</p> <p>Bath blankets should not be routinely used as ottom sheets or as lift sheets.</p> |
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10. Pillows should be cleaned with a disinfectant between patients by the Housekeeping Department. Disposable pillows should be discarded when patient is discharged
11. Routine h.s. (at bedtime) care does not include linen change unless soiled.
12. Clean linen should not be taken into the rooms of patients who are anticipating discharge.
13. Excess linen should not be taken into patient rooms.
14. Same day OR admission should have bed linen straightened rather than changed prior to their return from the operating room.
15. Bath blankets, rather than thermal blankets, should be used for warmth for all pre-op patients during transport to the operating room.
16. Disposable washcloths will be used for cleaning patients when blood and fecal material are on the body.
17. Reusable underpads are to be used for incontinent patients only and are to be changed PRN.
18. One reusable pillow should be used per bed. Additional pillows should be provided as needed for patient comfort.
19. Care should be taken when pulling linen off the linen carts so that clean linen does not fall to the floor. Any linen that falls to the floor must be discarded.
20. Clean linen should not be stored in bed stands or closets. Clean items stored in the room "just in case" are frequently not required and discarded at discharge.
21. Precaution gowns and blankets should not be worn as a warm-up.
22. If it is necessary to use a bath blanket as a mattress pad, it should be changed only when soiled.
23. Patient robes, pajama bottoms, extra large gown and impervious gowns are available when needed beside the linen cart.