Care of Personal Clothing Soiled with a Patient’s Blood/Body Fluid

Purpose:

To delineate policy regarding the laundering of an employee’s personal clothing, that becomes soiled with a patient’s blood/body fluids while on duty.

Policy:

1. An employee’s personal clothing (scrubs, uniforms, etc.) that becomes soiled with the blood or body fluids of another person must be cleaned by the Hospital Laundry before leaving the hospital premises.

2. The Hospital Laundry is open 0500 - 1600 Monday through Friday and 05:00–13:30 Saturday, Sunday, and most holidays. (call to confirm) When the Laundry is open, the employee shall go to the Laundry and notify the Director/Assistant Director or Director/Supervisor in Charge that their clothing has been soiled and scrubs are needed. The employee will then be provided with hospital owned scrubs, and a place in the laundry to change their clothing. Personal clothing will be laundered and returned to the employee as soon as possible, usually within the shift that it is received.

3. When the Laundry is not open, the employee shall contact the Administrative House Manager to obtain scrubs from the laundry.

   A. The soiled clothing is put into a plastic bag, sealed, labeled with the employee’s name, unit and unit phone number, and kept on the unit until the Laundry opens the following day.

   B. The Unit Supervisor/Charge Nurse will ensure that the soiled clothing is taken to the laundry when it opens. The employee will be notified by the Laundry when the clothing is ready.

4. The employee will return the borrowed scrubs at the time the clean clothing is picked up from the laundry.

Reference: CDC Bloodborne Pathogen Standards accessed on line at:
http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/bloodbornepathogens/standards.html

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