LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER - SHREVEPORT

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 become soiled with a patient’s blood/body fluids should not be taken home, but must be laundered by the Hospital Laundry.

2. The Hospital Laundry is open 0500 - 1800 Monday through Friday and 0600 - 1430 Saturday, Sunday and holidays. When the laundry is open, the employee shall go to the laundry and notify the Director/Assistant Director or Director/Supervisor in Charge that clothing has been soiled and scrubs are needed. The employee will then be provided a place in the laundry to change. Personal clothing will be laundered and returned to the employee as soon as possible, usually within the shift that it occurs.

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 assure 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.
Approved by Clinical Board: 7/17/01
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