



## INFECTION CONTROL MANUAL

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Care of Washer and Dryer</b>
<b>Policy NO:</b>	<b>IC309</b>
<b>Department:</b>	<b>Infection Control</b>
<b>Effective Date</b>	<b>1/2009</b>
<b>Reviewed/Revised</b>	2/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, 1/17, 1/18, 1/19, 2/21, 1/24
<b>Regulatory</b>	TJC: IC.02.01.01; IC.01.04.01

### **PURPOSE:**

To define guidelines for the cleaning of the washer and dryer to prevent/minimize transmission of infection.

### **POLICY:**

Washing machines and dryers in healthcare settings must be properly maintained for performance according to manufacturer's instructions. Disinfection of the tubs and tumblers of these machines is unnecessary when proper laundry procedures are followed, including:

- Physical removal of bulk solids (e.g. feces) before the wash/dry cycle
- Proper use of temperature, detergent, and laundry additives
- Damp textiles should not be left in machines overnight

All Weisman employees will adhere to these guidelines for care and cleaning of washer and dryer.

### **EQUIPMENT:**

Gloves, EPA disinfectant or wipes.

### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Maintenance is responsible to ensure that proper maintenance of the washer and dryer is completed (checking hoses for leaks, replacing hoses at any signs of wear or weakness and for maintaining appropriate water temperatures) and cleaning lint out of tube periodically.
2. Environmental Services will be responsible for daily cleaning of the washer and dryer:
  - Fabric softener receptacle or bleach dispenser (if applicable) will be removed and cleaned with hot water.
  - The top rim of the wash bucket will be cleaned, as it is up and under, where it can't easily be seen and becomes dirty.

- Entire outside of the washing machine will be cleaned with a hospital approved disinfectant.
  - The dryer's lint screen will be checked and cleaned before each drying cycle. The inside and outside of the dryer will be wiped down.
  - Cleaning of laundry area will be done daily by environmental services (the laundry area will be dust and wet mopped daily using a hospital approved disinfectant.).
3. All staff is responsible for:
- Physical removal of bulk solids (e.g., feces) before using the wash/dry cycle
  - Cleaning up excess laundry detergent spilled when starting the laundry cycle.
  - Ensuring that damp textiles are not left in machines overnight
  - Reporting any cleaning issues to Environmental Services.
  - Contacting the maintenance department if any problems with washer or dryer function are noted.

**REFERENCES:**

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2003) *Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in Health-Care Facilities (2003): G. Laundry and Bedding.*  
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/laundry.html>