

GUIDANCE FOR THE SAFE MANAGEMENT OF LINEN IN RESIDENTIAL, NURSING OR OTHER SOCIAL HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTS

TRAINING MODULES - RATIONALE:

This guidance represents the **expected standard of best practice** for the safe management of laundry within care homes. All care providers should work towards meeting these standards in full to ensure effective infection prevention and control and the protection of residents, staff, and visitors.

Where a care home is **unable to meet the standards** due to building design, resource, or operational constraints, **a risk assessment must be undertaken in consultation with the organisation's Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) lead**. This assessment should identify safe and practical ways to mitigate any risks.

If the care home cannot safely manage laundry services on-site, these services should be **outsourced to a suitably accredited external laundry provider**. The provider must operate in compliance with **HTM 01-04: Decontamination of linen for health and social care**, and, where appropriate, be accredited to **BS EN 14065:2016 – Textiles: Laundry processed textiles – Biocontamination control system**.

These training modules have been created to support learning, understanding, and improvement in laundry management within care homes and social care settings.

To access, click on each module on the page below.

It is best that you complete the training modules in order but you do not need to complete them in one sitting.

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TRAINING MODULES:



[Module 1 - Handling and Storage of Clean Linen](#)



[Module 2 - Handling and Segregation of Used or Infectious Linen](#)



[Module 3 - Temporary Storage and Transportation of Used or Infectious Linen to the Laundry](#)



[Module 4 - Provision and Maintenance of Appropriate Laundry Environment Including Flow of Linen Through the Laundry](#)



[Module 5 - Provision, Operation and Maintenance of Appropriate Equipment](#)



[Module 6 - Risks Associated with the Laundering Process, Chemicals, Products and the Environment](#)



[Module 7 - Machine Wash Programs](#)



[Module 8 - Tumble Drying, Ironing and Transportation of Clean Linen Back to Storage Facility](#)

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TRAINING MODULES - HOW-TO GUIDE:

To use these training modules:

- Click on the links above.
- Click on the speaker icon, circled below to unmute.



- You can go back and forwards by clicking the arrow buttons in the bottom left corner of the screen.
- Please note that there is no function to return to the same slide once you exit, but you can skip through until you find the slide you need.
- The presentation contains audio. To make sure you receive all of the important information please read and listen to each slide fully before continuing to the next slide.
- After each module, you will find a knowledge check quiz to help you assess your own understanding.



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DEFINITIONS:

- **Linen:** All reusable textile items requiring washing / disinfection via laundering processes.
- **Clean linen:** Linen that has been laundered (washed / disinfected / ironed) and is ready to be re-used.
- **Used linen:** Linen that has been used and is not visibly contaminated by blood, urine, faeces or vomit and there is no known or suspected infection.
- **Infectious linen:** Linen that has been used by a resident known or suspected to be infectious, and/or, linen that is contaminated (fouled) by blood, urine, faeces, or vomit. *N.B. cleaning cloths and mops must be laundered as 'infectious' linen and separately from any other linen.*
- **Laundry:** Environment where linen is laundered.
- **Laundering:** The process of washing, disinfecting, drying and ironing linen rendering it suitable to be re-used.