



# **SNS COLLEGE OF NURSING**



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Affiliated to The Tamilnadu DR.MGR MEDICAL UNIVERSITY,Chennai

## **DEPARTMENT OF NURSING**

**COURSE – 1 ST YEAR B.SC(N)**

**Subject -Nursing Foundation**

**UNIT: IX - MECHINARY ,EQUIPMENTS  
AND LINENS**

**TOPIC 7: CARE OF LINENS**

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## **CARE OF LINENS:**

### Types Of Materials Used In Hospital Materials Supplies:

- Drugs And Medicines For treatment of diseases and prevention Supplies
  - For daily use
  - diagnostic & treatment
  - cotton, gauze, syringes, needles, linen, etc
- Facilities
- non – movable materials used for long time. Eg: lifts, water tanks, telephone,

### **Equipments and Instruments:**

These include furniture, instruments and equipments such as x – ray machine, etc

### **EQUIPMENTS:**

- It refers to various devices, tools, instruments that are used in hospitals and health care works.
- These equipments must be well functioning and adequate supplies

must be there to provide optimum nursing care.

- Insufficient and ill functioning equipments results in increased work and dangerous for patient

### **TYPES OF EQUIPMENT:**

1. Self care equipments (for patient's daily life)
2. Electronic equipments (ECG monitor, ventilator, etc)
3. Diagnostic equipments (tools used to test)
4. Surgical equipments (stainless steel tools, OT tools)
5. Acute care equipments (dressing materials, etc)
6. Storage and transport equipments

### **Categorization of machineries and equipment:**

- Machineries & equipments
- Disposable

- Reusable

### **Disposable Equipments:**

- items used only once
- discarded after use
- new item for each patient

### **Reusable Equipments:**

- Items and equipments used for very long time
- These are cleaned, disinfected and sterilized before and after each use
- More care should be given to reusable items than disposable items

### **LINENS:**

Linen is a fabric made from fibers

- It includes clothes, sheets, etc
- In hospital setting, linens are used for many purposes such as covering the bed, articles, etc

Linens used in hospital setup:

- Bed sheets
- Blankets
- Curtains
- Cloth covers : pillows, mattress, hot water bottle, air cushion, inhaler cover, etc
- Towels
- Wrappers for trays, dressing set, etc
- Patient's clothes : gowns, shirts
- Staff clothes : mask, cap, gown, OT dress, etc

### **TYPES OF LINEN:**

- Clean linen (clean fresh linen)
- Contaminated linen (linen which is used for patient)
- Soiled linen (linen which is exposed to blood and body fluids)

### **Care of linens:**

Care of linen is important, as it is an expensive item in the running of a hospital



General instructions to avoid spoiling and wastage of linen:

- Follow hospital policy for maintenance of linen.
- Store the clean linen in cupboard and maintain stock register.
- Lock the cupboard when not in use.
- Care should be taken to avoid linen being taken home by the clients on their discharge.
- Stocks should be checked at regular intervals.
- Torn linen should not be used on the bed but sent for mending.

- Soiled linen should not be placed on the floor.
- Regularly send the dirty linen to laundry for washing and ironing.
- Damp linen should be dried.
- Try to remove fresh stains by using appropriate stain remover.
- Draw mackintosh over bed sheets to protect from stains.
- The linen used for an infectious patient should be disinfected first before they are sent to laundry.
- Always use mackintosh over top linen while doing any procedure.
- Teach the importance of keeping clean hospital linen to the patient and family members

### **Removal of stains:**

- ✓ Medicine stain (apply spirit).
- ✓ Rust marks (apply salt and lemon juice).

- ✓ Tea/coffee stain (pour milk & wash)

### Blood stain

- fresh – soak in cold water
- old – soak in H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>
- thick – apply thick paste of starch & dry in sun.

- Iodine (dip in rice water)
- Paint (turpentine, alcohol)

### Ink stain

- Dip in cool water
- Sprinkle salt and lemon
- Dry in sun

Food stain (apply salt and pour hot water)

## **Disinfection of contaminated/Soiled Linen:**

- Always use laundry box/hamper trolley for collecting contaminated linen.
- It should not be put on the floor, as it will cause more contamination.



- Dip the linen in a bucket containing 0.5% solution of chlorine for 10 minutes.
- Rinse it in water and get dry in sun.
- Send for autoclaving(sterilization)
- After disinfecting the linen, store them in appropriate cupboards.

### **AUTOCLAVE:**



### **Disinfectants used for cleaning:**

- Sodium hypochloride solution 0.5%  
Duration – 5 minutes
- Glutaraldehyde 2% Duration – 20 to 30 minutes
- For sterilization, glutaraldehyde 2%

Duration – 10 hours

### **Care of blankets:**

- Blankets are expensive articles and it will shrink while washing
  - Blankets should not be washed, it should be dusted in open place then dried in sunlight to disinfect
- They should not be exposed to dust
  - While storing, blankets should be carefully protected from moth using naphthalene balls
- They should be covered with dust proof sheets

### **Care of mattresses and pillows:**

- They should be prevented from becoming wet and stained
- They should be brushed at regular intervals to prevent collection of dust
  - Washable covers should be covered over the mattresses and pillows
- They are disinfected by exposing them

to sunlight

- If needed to wash, wash it under running cold water

### **Importance of maintaining linen in hospital:**

- We can provide clean and tidy linen and bed to the patient
  - Provides comfort to the patient
  - Limits cross – infection
  - Promotes cost – effectiveness of hospital by prolonging the life of the items

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**THANK YOU**