

STANDARDS FOR LINEN QUALITY

GENERAL STANDARDS

1. All linen must be free from foreign objects such as tape, or heart monitor pads.
2. All linen must be soft to the touch.
3. All items must be fresh smelling. There should be no moldy, musty, or other unacceptable odors. New bath blankets have a natural cotton smell which is acceptable.
4. All items must be free of rips longer than ¼ inch, and holes larger than the end of a pencil eraser. Additional requirements for holes and tears for specific linen items will be found below.
5. Minor wrinkling is allowed. Major wrinkling and accordion pleating are not permitted.
6. Light stains are acceptable provided they are no larger than a quarter. (see additional standards for specific items)
7. “Thin Linen” is not acceptable. If an item has noticeably lost a lot of its cotton content it should be rejected.
8. Damp linen is never acceptable. If a batch of damp linen is received, it should be sent back to the dryers. If an individual piece is received, it should be placed in rewash.
9. Patched and mended linen is unacceptable.

Any item not meeting the above standards shall be placed in the red stain tub. These items will be individually inspected by a Q/A person to determine their final disposition.

Additional requirements for specific linen items will be found below.

STANDARDS FOR SPECIFIC ITEMS

Flat Sheets, Draw Sheets and Fitted Sheets

1. No holes in the center (patient area). Holes no larger than a pencil eraser are acceptable up to 18” from each side.
2. Light stains are acceptable provided they are no larger than a quarter and there are no more than 5 per sheet. (These will be primarily encountered on the draw sheets; they are almost transparent and are caused by medicines used within the hospitals.)
3. No loose hems or selvages.

Pillowcases

1. Stains are not acceptable.
2. No holes or tears.

Towels, Wash Cloths

1. Towels and wash cloths missing sections of looping are not acceptable.

Thermal Blankets

1. Loose strings no longer than 1" are acceptable.

Gowns, PJ pants

1. Gowns are to have no missing ties or snaps.
2. No tears, holes or split seams.

Under Pads

1. No cuts or tears or holes are acceptable, especially on the barrier side.

Isolation Gowns

1. No holes, tears, rips or split seams are acceptable.
2. Gowns with full grids are not acceptable. (grid is to be marked each time it is processed)

Approved by: Ken Schehl

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