

 <p><b>TEN TEXPROS CO. LIMITED</b> Africa's Premier Provider of Linen Solutions</p>	Doc No: TTP.R.L.012	Prepared By:  Ssemuyiga Denis
	Version: 01  Revision Date: 17 <sup>th</sup> , Jul 2025	Approved by:  Deo Ssekidde

## **TEN TEXPROS LAUNDRY SERVICES**

### **GUIDELINES ON MANAGING LINEN INFESTED WITH PESTS**

#### **Introduction**

Pest infestation can be common because of the warmth, food, moisture and shelter provided. Stacks of both dirty and freshly cleaned linen provide warmth and a place for pests to hide. Patients' personal clothing and beddings can be a major source of pests into the hospital. This is inevitable, even in the most organized hospital rooms and laundry area since patients and their visitors coming from different places can also carry pests with themselves into the hospital. Therefore, effective pest management need to remain a priority when handling hospital linen. If ignored, pests can kill the image of the facility, damage property and put patients' health and safety at risk since many pests such as bed bugs, fleas, lice, cockroaches and rodents can carry dangerous pathogens and spread diseases.

There are effective steps that can be taken, even in the most sensitive hospital environments, to prevent and control pests. An integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan, that includes regular sanitation, monitoring and maintenance of pest "hot spots" like ward/unit patient rooms and laundry sections is a key way to help prevent pest problems in a healthy care facility. After a thorough inspection, a customized IPM program specific to the facility and its unique pest pressures such as bed bugs, fleas, lice, ants, cockroaches, rodents and other unwelcome pests can be developed.

#### **Purpose**

This document serves to guide on the appropriate techniques of identifying and managing linen infested with pests in the hospital.

#### **Scope**

The document shall guide laundry staff, housekeepers, ward staff, hospital risk and environmental health and safety office, IPC office and other staff of Ten Texpros on the appropriate management of linen infested with pests.

#### **Responsibility**

It shall be the responsibility of the supervisor to train and guide housekeepers, laundry team and ward staff on the appropriate techniques of handling linen and rooms infested with pests.

The office of hospital risk and environmental health and safety office together with the office of IPC shall develop a customized Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan specific to the hospital and the nature of the pests and guide its implementation.

Laundry staff, housekeepers and ward staff have the responsibility to adhere to the guideline and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plan for effective management of infestation,

Management shall provide the necessary tools including equipment, PPE, pesticides, and other utilities required to manage linen infested with pests.

### **Principles of good practices when managing linen infested with pests**

Proactive and ongoing pest monitoring is the best way to identify, prevent and control infestation.

- Inspect and detect parasites at each stage of linen management, that is, from inspection on the wards through linen processing in laundry to treating as early as possible. This could be through physical seeing of the parasite or their signs such as small chew marks, brown ink-colored stains and shed skins.
  - Regularly check patients' linen, personal clothes and mattresses for pests like bed bugs, fleas, lice or evidence of pest presence such as droppings, chew marks, small colorings on linen or shed exoskeletons to detect pest activity.
  - Regularly check through joins in beds and cupboards, cracks in ceilings, walls, doors, windows and any place that could easily hide parasites like bed bugs if brought in with linen or patient's personal clothes.
- Bag linen suspected or found to be infested with parasites in a black or yellow or red liner. Mark it "**infested linen**" and isolate it from other linen.
- Quarantine any room suspected or known to have pests until it has been inspected and treated professionally.
- Alert management immediately and report to Environmental Health and Safety Officer (EHSO) to treat the quarantined room(s).
- Treat linen suspected or found to be infested with pests in an isolated manner (separate from other linen) right away from transportation to ironing in the clean section of laundry.
- Launder infested linen in hottest water and detergent, dry and iron it potentially with the hottest temperatures allowed for the fabric. The combination of heat and soap will kill pests like bed bugs.
- Consult the facility's EHSO to determine which items could be discarded.
- Keep the floor clean and open to allow regular sweeping and mopping as needed to prevent any residue that can attract pests like ants.
- Store and keep mops, brooms or other cleaning supplies off the floor, dry and organized to prevent them attracting and harboring pests.
- Do not place storage racks and cupboards against the wall. As a general rule, keep an 18-inch gap between the wall and the rack or cupboard.

- Avoid cracks in walls, floors, ceilings, windows, doors, cupboards or beds as these could also harbor pests.

### **Conclusion**

Proactive and ongoing pest monitoring is the best way to identify, prevent and control pest infestation in the healthcare facility.

### **References**

- *Linen management manual of Ten Texpros (2025-2029), page 21.*

**Prepared by: Ssemuyiga Denis**

**Approved by: Deo Ssekidde**