Infection Prevention

Clean Fast and Well
6 tips to help keep soft surfaces clean and reduce HAIs

1. Handle laundry safely
   - When it’s dirty...
     - Wear reusable rubber gloves
     - Roll up soiled linens
     - Place soiled linens into a clearly labeled, leak-proof container
   - When it’s being washed...
     - Use hot water and an approved laundry detergent
     - Use antimicrobial technology to kill certain organisms
   - When it’s being transported...
     - Sort, package, deliver and store clean linens using methods that prevent risk of contamination by dust, debris or soiled items
     - Use designated carts to deliver clean linens to patient or resident rooms

2. Know when to clean cubicle curtains
   - For isolation cases, change out the curtains and bag the soiled ones
   - For visibly stained curtains, change them out and bag the soiled ones
   - For ongoing cleaning, discuss caseload with launderer and follow recommendations

3. Protect pillows from germs
   - Launder reusable pillows in hot water between patients/residents
   - Launder visibly stained reusable pillows in hot water

4. Maintain mattresses regularly
   - Clean and disinfect barrier protective mattress covers according to manufacturer guidelines
   - Immediately replace any mattress cover with visible signs of stains, damage or wear

5. Vacuum often to fight the spread of germs
   - Vacuum carpeting in public areas several times a week, using a commercial-grade vacuum with a HEPA filter
   - Have carpeting professionally deep-cleaned and sanitized quarterly
   - Dry wet carpeting thoroughly to prevent fungi growth

6. Clean and maintain upholstered furniture
   - In a separate room, use EPA-registered products to clean the upholstery
   - Immediately repair any tears or holes in upholstery

How Clean Is Your Clean?
Dirty truth:
Clean linens are touched about 6 times between washing and patient use.

Dirty truth: A 2012 study found that 92 percent of cubicle curtains were contaminated with infectious bacteria within one week.

When it’s got to be healthcare clean™
Get more helpful tips. Read the article “Cleaning soft surfaces in healthcare is only part of reducing HAIs.”

References:
2. Ibid
7. https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/background/laundry.html
11. https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/environmental/index.html