

Advice for carers on laundering patients' soiled clothing

We're unable to clean patient's personal clothing as we have no laundry facility. As a result, we need to ask family and friends to do this.

We would be grateful if you could do so in line with this advice:

- wash patient's soiled clothing as a separate load to other items
- empty contents of bag straight into the machine. This may be done by tipping into the machine to reduce handling if necessary
- do not mix with home laundry
- dispose of the bag into a household rubbish bin. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water
- use pre-wash to remove initial bulk of soiling. (If minimal soiling – this is not necessary)
- wash on the hottest wash possible that will not damage cloths. (Refer to manufacturer's instructions on clothing label). Clean around your washing machine, door and worktops with your usual kitchen cleaner
- tumble dry clothes. If this is not possible, dry outside on a washing line
- iron as necessary in line with manufacturer's instructions; this can help with disinfection

Contact NHS and PALS

You can also visit the NHS website for general information about infection prevention and control.

[nhs.uk](https://www.nhs.uk)

You can also contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS), who can listen to your concerns, and direct you to the right place for more information.

Call 01189 605027 or email PALS@berkshire.nhs.uk



 [berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk](https://www.berkshirehealthcare.nhs.uk)

 infection.control@berkshire.nhs.uk

 01189 605 140 (Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm)