

Information for patients

# Advice on how to wash soiled personal clothing



## Infection Control

## There is a patient's property bag containing soiled clothing in the locker of the patient named below:

Patient: .....

Ward: .....

Ward contact number: .....

**Please read this leaflet before leaving with the laundry and check with a member of staff if you are unclear as what to do.**

We do not wash patients' personal clothing in hospital. If your own clothing becomes soiled, your clothes will be sealed in a special pink dissolvable bag.

This pink bag will then be placed into a white plastic 'patient's property' bag and stored in your locker.

### How to wash soiled clothing using a washing machine

- Take the pink bag out of the white 'patient's property' bag.
- Place the pink bag into the washing machine. Do not open the pink bag as it has been specially designed to go straight into the washing machine. Do not add any other items of clothing into the washing machine.
- You should always wash your hands thoroughly after handling soiled clothing, or the bag of soiled clothing.
- Use a biological powder, liquid or tablets if possible.
- Use a pre-wash cycle before the main wash cycle.
- Wash the items at at least 60°C so that the pink bag dissolves and releases the clothing into the washing machine (washing at a lower temperature may not dissolve the bag, which may result in the parts of the back sticking to the clothing).
- When the washing cycle is complete, remove the washing from the washing machine and dry the clothing naturally or in a tumble dryer.

## Further information is available from:

### Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)

PALS provide confidential on-the-spot advice and support, helping you to resolve any concerns you may have about the care we provide within the NHS.

RJAH PALS Tel: **01691 404606**

Email: [PALS.Office@rjah.nhs.uk](mailto:PALS.Office@rjah.nhs.uk)

## Other sources of Information

### NHS 111

A fast and easy way to get the right help, whatever the time. NHS 111 is available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. Telephone: **111** (free from a landline or mobile)

Website: [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

### Patient UK

Provides leaflets on health and diseases translated into 11 other languages, as well as links to national support/self-help groups and a directory of UK health websites.

Website: [www.patient.info](http://www.patient.info)

## Self-help and support groups

### Self-Help UK

This is a directory of self-help groups and charities.

Website: [www.selfhelp.org.uk](http://www.selfhelp.org.uk)

## If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print. Arrangements can also be made on request for it to be explained in your preferred language. Please contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: [rjah.pals.office@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.pals.office@nhs.net)

### Feedback

Tell us what you think of our patient information leaflet. Please send your comments to the Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) email: [rjah.pals.office@nhs.net](mailto:rjah.pals.office@nhs.net)

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