

Infection Prevention and Control

Patient's Clothing bags (PCB) – Doissolvo Sacks

During your admission you may have clothing/ nightwear which requires laundering at home. The Dissolvo sack enables you to safely transport any soiled or infected linen for washing in the home environment. You do not have to handle any of the laundry prior to washing, as you place the entire sack in the machine, therefore eliminating any risk of cross infection and reducing any unpleasant odours.

How do I use the Dissolvo sack?

- Staff will place the clothing/ laundry in the clothing sack for you
- The bag is then easily closed and hygienically sealed, by staff, with the unique pink soluble tie tape supplied
- The closed sack can then be placed into another carrier (for transport) enabling the laundry to be safely taken home
- Once the Dissolvo sack has been removed from the outer carrier, the entire sack can then be placed unopened into a domestic washing machine, with NO other laundry
- The sack is suitable for washing items in both hot and cold washes.
- During the initial wash cycle clothes are released from the sack as the soluble membrane (a seam along the sack) and tie dissolve within 30 seconds of the wash cycle
- Linen escapes from the open sack, as the seam has dissolved, into the wash to be processed normally.
- Once the wash cycle is complete the open patient clothing sack is removed and discarded and the laundry contents disinfected are



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safe to handle.

Frequently asked questions?

- Is the water soluble film bio degradable/ environmentally friendly?
- Yes- when solution is exposed to normal water treatment bacteria will break down into harmless components
- Why is the Dissolvo sack not knotted at the top?
- This can cause problems because the knot is a solid lump of material and water cannot reach the centre of the knot to dissolve it. The tape provided should always be used.
- What is the difference between a fully soluble and soluble seam laundry sack?
- A fully soluble laundry bag dissolves completely in the wash cycle; however, these bags are only suitable for industrial machines which operate at much higher temperatures. Fully soluble bags are not suitable for domestic washing machines. The dissolvo sack you have been given only has a soluble seam and tie (which dissolve on the wash cycle and release the items inside, but leave behind an open dissolvo sack) and is suitable for domestic use.
- Can I tumble dry the sack?
- Under no circumstances should the sack accompany the laundry into the tumble dryer as it is plastic and will melt
- What if I use a washer/dryer?
- If you use a combined washer dryer it is advised not to set the dryer function. After the wash cycle has finished, remove the laundry sack and then tumble dry as necessary.

If you have any further questions on the use of the patient clothing bag (Dissolvo sack) please do not hesitate to contact the nursing staff who will assist you.

NHS Hospitals are unable to wash patient's personal clothing for the following reasons:-

1. The hospital linen is washed at high temperatures that are unsuitable for personal clothing and may damage the patient's clothing.

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2. Because of the number of patients within the hospitals and no on-site facility to launder patient's clothing, it is extremely difficult to trace individual items of clothing.
3. Detergents used for the hospital linen may not be compatible with materials used for personal clothing.

If you have any further queries or concerns, the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses are available, Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm to speak to you or your family. Contact us on 024 7696 4791

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format, please contact 024 7696 4791 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

References

The Royal Marsden Manual of "Clinical Nursing procedures" (2015) 9th Edition Chapter:

<https://www.fiscealthcare.co.uk/Products/Dissolvo-Sacks/ULAU0003>

Document History

Department:	Infection Prevention & Control
Contact:	24791
Updated:	August 2020
Review:	August 2022
Version:	6.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/852/09