

**OLIVE VIEW-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER/HEALTH CENTERS  
MENTAL HEALTH NURSING  
POLICY & PROCEDURE**

**NUMBER: 4837  
VERSION: 3**

**SUBJECT/TITLE: LAUNDRY SERVICES IN THE PSYCHIATRIC LOCKED UNIT**

**MD ORDER: YES [ ] NO [x]**

**POLICY:** A washer and dryer are available for patients' laundry needs during hours established by the unit. Laundry hours will be from 6:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. daily.

On admission, patients will be informed of:

1. availability of laundry services
2. laundry hours
3. patient responsibilities, i.e. gathering of their soiled clothing

**PURPOSE:** The adult mental health unit program utilizes the activities of daily living in a goal-directed way to foster adequate self-care and physical and mental well-being of patients. Washing one's personal clothing to maintain hygiene is one of the tasks of daily living.

**EQUIPMENT LIST:** Detergent with bleach alternative; Washer; Dryer

**DEPARTMENTS:** MENTAL HEALTH NURSING

**PROCEDURE:** Nursing staff will:

1. determine the appropriateness of clothing/articles that can be placed in the washer/dryer.
2. wash and dry each patient load separately to ensure against lost or misplaced articles of clothing
3. adhere to Standard/body fluid precautions and don PPE when appropriate
4. disinfect washer between each patient load by wiping with sani-cloth germicidal disposable wipes and following manufacture's recommendations for contact time
5. update the log each time with staff initials and acknowledge that washer is disinfected between each load.
6. acknowledge in the log that dryer vent is being cleaned after each use.

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References: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare. <u>2004 Accreditation Manual for Hospitals</u> . Oakbrook Terrace, IL: Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations.  Official California Code of Regulations (1999). <u>Title 22, Social Security (Division 5)</u> . San Francisco, CA: Barclay Law Publishers.	
Approved by: Alma Alvarez (Director, Infection Control), Georgia Foot'e-Sam (Clinical Nurse Director II)	Date: 08/30/2017
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