

**LAUNDRY CHUTE CLEANING
MAINTENANCE**

Effective date: 03/81
Revision date : 08/12

Policy:

Ensure that hospital laundry chutes are cleaned and disinfected to maintain infection control standards as requested by Hospital Administration or the Laundry Manager.

Prevailing Codes and Standards:

Infection Control Procedures for Laundry, OSHA Confined Spaces

PM Cross Reference:

By work order request only from proper authority.

Location:

Laundry chutes are located in H and K Wings of the Hospital.

Procedure:

- I. Laundry Manager will inspect the chutes on a quarterly basis and submit a work order to Physical Plant when he determines the need for cleaning and disinfecting the chutes.
- II. Physical Plant will initiate a request for a Contractor to perform the cleaning of the chute.
- III. The Laundry Manager will:
 - A. coordinate with the contractor a schedule for the cleaning
 - B. ensure that laundry chute room entrance doors are locked
 - C. place "**DANGER - OUT OF SERVICE**" signs on laundry chute room access doors
 - D. notify Hospital Administration when laundry chutes are down for cleaning, and when they are back in service.
- IV. Cleaning Contractor and in-house personnel involved with the cleaning are instructed to:
 - A. Comply with confined space requirements including:
 1. previous confined space training
 2. using special protective equipment identified in confined space guidelines such as:
 - a. Splash-Proof Gown
 - b. Gloves
 - c. Protective Eye Wear
 - d. Submicron Mask
 3. following procedures identified in confined space guidelines such as:
 - a. having a rescue team present for immediately available medical assistance,
 - b. wash hands thoroughly when job is complete and after removal of attire.
 - B. Cleaning Procedure
 1. Start the cleaning operation on the top floor and continue down to the ground floor.
 2. Use a high pressure water sprayer not to exceed 495

- 3. psi.
- 3. Heat sprayer solution to assist the removal operation.
- 4. Exercise care not to dislodge, bend or brake sprinkler heads within the laundry chute.
- C. Disinfect as follows:
 - 1. Use the infection control approved biodegradable, alkaline detergent solution furnished.
 - 2. Mix disinfecting solution into the high pressure sprayer and apply to interior chute walls.
 - 3. Start the disinfecting operation on the top floor and continue down to the ground floor.
 - 4. Collect all cleaning and disinfectant residue in a container and dump in an appropriate drain.
- V. Repairs to the interior of the laundry chute: all confined space entry guidelines should be followed.
 - A. Sheet metal damage will be repaired by Physical Plant personnel.
 - B. The laundry manager will be notified of the planned repair. Item III B, C, D will be activated.
 - C. A Physical Plant employee will be stationed at each floor to ensure no laundry is placed in the chute.
 - D. A container will be placed on the ground floor beneath the chute to catch any debris.
 - C. The employee making the repair will:
 - 1. Wear personal protective equipment
 - 2. Have attended the confined space seminar
 - 3. Use (if necessary) safety harnesses
 - D. When all work is complete, physical plant will notify the laundry manager who will notify Hospital Administration that the chutes are back in service.