Purpose of this procedure:

- This document sets out how, who and when mattress checking and cleaning should be carried out in NHS Lothian in-patient areas, operating departments, outpatient departments and emergency departments.
- This will minimise the potential risk to patients of cross infection from damaged or contaminated mattresses. Contaminated mattresses have been highlighted as source or contributory factors in outbreaks of infection in research and national policy.
- A national hazard alert notice was circulated in 2010 highlighting the need to introduce a regular system of checking mattresses.

The Healthcare Environment Inspectorate (HEI) assesses NHS Lothian compliance with this as part of hospital inspections. Damaged and contaminated mattresses have been found during these inspections.

Roles and Responsibilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursing staff will:</th>
<th>Clean mattresses in line with this SOP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Check all patient mattresses on discharge or weekly (whichever comes first)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Remove contaminated or damaged mattress covers and cores from use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Complete all documentation relating to mattress cleaning and checks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Escalate through their line management if replacement mattress cover and/or cores are not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portering services will:</td>
<td>Uplift any soiled/damaged mattresses from ward areas for disposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Delivery of new mattress cores to ward area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue viability services will:</td>
<td>Provide guidance on the correct selection &amp; use of pressure relieving equipment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntleigh Nurse Advisor will:</td>
<td>Provide support &amp; advice on the safe and appropriate use of Huntleigh beds as per contract</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infection Prevention &amp; Control Nurses will:</td>
<td>Support clinical staff to understand and implement this SOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monitor compliance with this SOP as part of ward visits and audit activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cleaning & checking procedure: In-patient areas

Mattress should be dated by ward staff when first put into use

Non-Infective Patient

Mattresses are not required to be cleaned daily (unless visibly contaminated with blood/body fluid)
Clean weekly and on discharge:
• neutral detergent & hand hot water (or detergent wipes)
• dry thoroughly

Infective Patient

Mattress must be cleaned daily and on discharge:
• Use Chlorclean 1,000ppm chlorine solution (Haz-Tab 10,000ppm chlorine solution if blood/amniotic fluid)
• Allow to air dry

WEEKLY or at discharge (whichever is soonest) unzip mattress cover fully and check:

Any external damage to cover
Replace cover

Any internal staining on cover
Replace cover

Staining on foam core

Staining ≥ 8cm across OR visible blood staining

YES
Replace foam core

NO
Complete risk assessment form & retain mattress core
Cleaning & checking procedure: Operating Theatres and Outpatient departments

Non-infective Patient/ Minor surgery/low risk interventions/ No blood or body fluids present

- Clean (trolley) mattress surface between each patient
  - neutral detergent & hand hot water (or detergent wipes)
  - dry thoroughly

Infective Patient/major surgery/blood or body spillage

- Clean (trolley) mattress on patient discharge:
  - Use Chlorclean 1,000ppm chlorine solution (Haz-Tab 10,000ppm chlorine solution if blood/amniotic fluid)
  - Allow to air dry

Between each patient (during cleaning) – visually inspect the mattress cover. Any external damage noted?

Replace cover and/or mattress if practical (* temporary repair permitted in Theatres ONLY if risk assessment documented in line with local policy)

DAILY – where mattress design allows-unzip mattress cover fully and check:

Any internal staining on cover

- Replace cover

Staining on foam core

- Staining ≥ 8cm across OR visible blood staining
  - YES
  - Replace foam core

- Staining on zip line only
  - NO
  - Complete risk assessment form & retain mattress core
## Infection Prevention & Control: Mattress Checking Procedure

**Ward:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Action completed (date)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Cover damaged (no replacement available)        | • Mattress to be used to maintain delivery of safe care and patient flow  
• Escalate to site coordinator  
• Replace as soon as cover becomes available |                         |
| Mattress integrity damaged (no replacement available) | • Mattress to be used to maintain delivery of safe care and patient flow  
• Escalate to site coordinator  
• Replace as soon as cover becomes available |                         |
| Staining of mattress core is localised to zip line and/or minor ingress <8cm | • Retain mattress and reassess at patient discharge/within 1 week (whichever falls first) |                         |
| Mattress core condemned (no replacement available) | • Mattress to be used to maintain delivery of safe care and patient flow  
• Escalate to site coordinator  
• Replace as soon as cover becomes available |                         |
| Replacement mattress available from store: (Yes/No) |                                                                         |                         |

**Signature:**

**Date:**