



**News Release
Healthcare Laundry Accreditation
Council**

HLAC Digitizes Four-Part 'Infection Control Today' Series on Healthcare Laundry's Role in Infection Prevention Strategy

PLAINFIELD, IL - June 13, 2018 - The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is making available a downloadable four-part series on the role of healthcare laundry in infection prevention strategy. In digitized format (free, registration required, infectioncontrol.com), the compendium comprises four articles specifically directed at Infection Preventionists (IPs) that originally appeared in print editions of the industry-leading magazine, *Infection Control Today*.

HLAC is a nonprofit organization that inspects and accredits laundries processing textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

Authored by industry experts, the series provides insights and useful information for IPs and other healthcare stakeholders about the importance of properly laundered healthcare textiles (HCTs) and how these procedures contribute to a hospital's overall infection prevention program.

The articles include:

- "Navigating the Intersection Where Healthcare Laundry and Infection Prevention Meet," John Scherberger BS, FAHE, CHESP. In the article, Scherberger notes that maintaining hygienic HCTs is as important to quality patient outcomes as practicing proper hand hygiene; that ensuring hygienic HCTs is not exclusive to the launderer - it's everyone's job; and that it's not an "either/or" decision when choosing a laundry as an infection prevention partner.
- "Diligence in Environmental Infection Prevention is Important to Maintaining the Quality of Laundered Healthcare Textiles Prior to Use," Lynne M. Sehulster, PhD, M(ASCP), CMIP(AHE). In her article, Sehulster says that maintenance is the last phase of the overall laundry process of preparing reusable fabric items, and infection prevention is critical to its success. She suggests that staying on top of these responsibilities can be made easier through the use of [checklists](#) such as those provided by HLAC.

- "How Infection Preventionists Can Affect a Hospital's Bottom Line with Effective Linen Strategy," Gregory Gicewicz, Sterile Surgical Systems, Tumwater, WA; and Janice Carter Larson, vice president of clinical resources and consulting for Encompass Group LLC. The article examines linen-related choices that can impact the bottom line: whether to choose synthetic, cotton or blended textiles; linen weights; the real meaning of "price per pound"; low-temperature chemicals; and disposable vs. reusable textiles. The article also looks at how applying best practices in linen management can lower the quantity of linen used per adjusted patient day.
- "Aligning the IP's Linen/Laundry with the C-Suite Mindset: Key Messages for a Key Messenger," Gregory Gicewicz, John Scherberger and Lynne Sehulster, PhD. In the article, the authors identify the IP's key focus areas when communicating to C-suite executives about linen and laundry: ensuring patient safety, promoting patient satisfaction, maintaining health and financial stability, compliance, strategic planning and innovation, and environmental stewardship. The authors note that for each focus area, having hospital textiles processed by a laundry accredited by HLAC offers a highly relevant solution for addressing these issues.

HLAC is inviting IPs who are attending [APIC 2018](#) to visit Booth #439 to learn more about HLAC's increasingly in-demand expertise and standards for helping healthcare facilities to prevent the contamination of HCTs.

APIC 2018 is this year's annual conference of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. The conference is being held at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, MN, June 13-15.

About HLAC

The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. Visit www.hlacnet.org and on Twitter [@NewsHlac](https://twitter.com/NewsHlac).

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