



News Release
Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

Report Examines How IP Nurses Can Affect a Hospital's Bottom Line with Effective Linen Strategy

Third in 'Infection Control Today' Series

PLAINFIELD, IL - Nov. 13, 2017 - From vendor selection and linen choices, to linen care and linen management, having an effective strategy provides infection preventionists (IPs) with numerous opportunities to "demonstrate positive, measurable bottom-line value and thereby increase their influence over relevant policy and decision making," according to an article published in the November issue of in [*Infection Control Today*](#) (ICT) magazine.

The [article](#) (pp. 35-36), "How Infection Preventionists Can Affect a Hospital's Bottom Line with Effective Linen Strategy," is co-authored by Gregory Gicewicz and Janice Carter Larson. Gicewicz is past president of the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) and owner/operator of the healthcare laundry Sterile Surgical Systems, Tumwater, WA. Larson, CLLM, is vice president of clinical resources and consulting for Encompass Group LLC; and she currently sits on the Association of Linen Management (ALM) board of directors.

In their article, the authors note that leading hospitals are requiring in their RFPs that commercial laundries and cooperatives have HLAC accreditation, or "formal acknowledgement from the laundry verifying that its processes are based on the highest professionally recognized standards." HLAC is the nonprofit organization that inspects and accredits laundries processing textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

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.

This is the third of a four-part HLAC/ICT series on the role of healthcare laundry in infection prevention. In the [first article](#) in the series, John Scherberger, past president of HLAC's board, called for a better understanding among infection

preventionists (IPs) of how to "navigate the intersection where healthcare laundry and infection prevention come together." In the second [article](#), Lynne M. Sehulster, PhD, M(ASCP), CMIP(AHE), writes that "maintaining both the quality and cleanliness of processed healthcare textiles (HCTs) prior to their use is a shared responsibility. It calls for a collaborative effort between laundry operators and the healthcare professionals in the recipient healthcare facilities."

The fourth article in the series, scheduled to be published in the December issue of ICT, will look at how the IP can align linen/laundry messages with the goals and objectives of a healthcare facility's C-suite officers.

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).

HLAC Information: Regina Baras 855-277-HLAC (4522); rbaras@hlacnet.org
Media Information: Ken Swoyer 847-424-1256; kswoyer@hlacnet.org
www.hlacnet.org

© Copyright 2017 HLAC. All rights reserved.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)