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**News Release**

**Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council**

**HLAC Expertise Shared in HHM Discussion**

**Of Key Laundry and Textile Issues**

 PLAINFIELD, IL ­– March 24, 2022 – Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) past president and board member Gregory Gicewicz is among laundry experts featured in a discussion of industry issues in the March 2022 edition of *Healthcare Hygiene* magazine

In a [sidebar](https://joom.ag/JAbd/p22) Q&A accompanying the magazine’s cover story on the “reusables vs. disposables debate,” Gicewicz, president of [Sterile Surgical Systems](https://www.sterilesurgicalsystems.com/), touched upon a variety of hot topics relevant to healthcare laundry professionals. Briefly:

**On living in the age of resistant organisms:** “Textiles have a pivotal role in infection prevention and control, both with hospital patients and with hospital staff.”

**On the threat textiles pose as vectors of infection transmission:** Though instances are rare, contaminated “…healthcare textiles can transmit pathogens throughout a hospital wherever they touch or rub against surfaces, including medical devices susceptible to HAI contractions.”

**On gaps in knowledge:** “We find the most knowledge/practice gaps exist around the concept of standard laundry process for infection prevention and patient safety…. While a proper wash cycle is certainly important… there are hundreds of other standards that must be followed to produce hygienically clean healthcare textiles.”

**On home laundering of healthcare personnel scrubs/uniforms:** “Home laundering…is not recommended, as this practice carries numerous infection control-related risks…. Proper laundering of healthcare textiles in an accredited facility requires following hundreds of standards in areas such as water temperatures and chemistry; functional separation; soil sorting; textile protection; textile drying; textile storage; textile transportation; machine maintenance, and more.”

**On the use of disposables vs. reusables:** “Reusables offer clear environmental advantages, superior performance, and more predictable availability…. Their cost per use is typically far below single-use items and they support local jobs to reprocess in preferably accredited healthcare laundries. Conversely, disposable items are discarded in our landfills after one use and typically do not employ local works in the reprocessing.”

See the full article at [*Healthcare Hygiene* magazine](https://viewer.joomag.com/healthcare-hygiene-magazine-march-2022-march-2022/0608708001646784292/p22?short&).

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

**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. For more information, [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org), on Twitter [@NewsHlac](https://twitter.com/newshlac), and on [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/company/healthcare-laundry-accreditation-council).

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