*Safe Work Practices*   
Handling Soiled Linens and Towels

**Hazards:** Soiled linens and towels may be contaminated with body fluids

**Equipment:** Linen cart (caboose)

**Personal protective equipment:** Protective gloves (rubber or cloth), hand sanitizer, fitted uniform, slip-resistant shoes

**Training required:** On-the-job training, sharps training, WHMIS

**Legal requirements:** N/A

# Safe work practices

* When removing linens from the bed, ensure that there are no other objects tangled in the sheets.
* To remove linens, work your way around the bed rather than pulling the tucked sheets toward you.
* Use safe lifting technique when bending down to pick up linens in bed and bathroom areas. Bend at the knees to pick up piles of linens.
* Transfer soiled linens into the bottom compartment of the linen cart. Be careful not to overfill this compartment.
* Keep linens that are soiled with blood in a separate plastic bag.
* Wash hands thoroughly as required after handling soiled linens. If that is not immediately possible, apply hand sanitizer.