



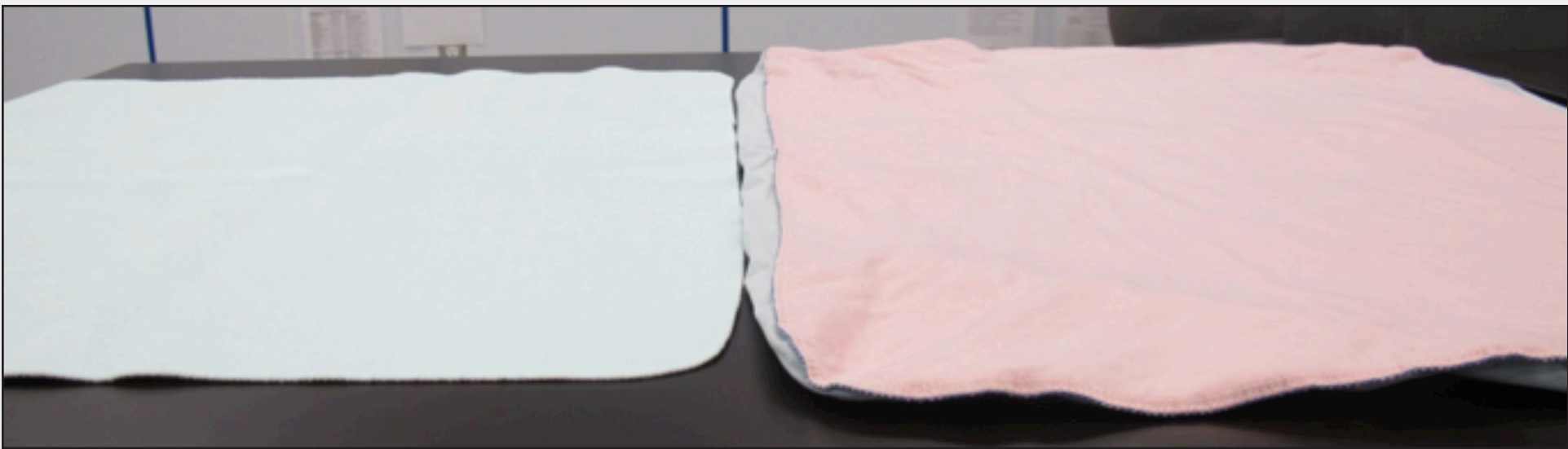
“The goal of Hospital Laundry Services is to make the patient experience more pleasant”

Giles Vanderlann,
Manager, Hospital Laundry Services
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region.

better care

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2013

Bed stays are more comfortable with new underpads



Bulky underpad on the right will be replaced by lighter but more absorbent pad on the left

3sHealth and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region are launching a new product that will make beds in hospital and long term care facilities more comfortable. The current product that is used on beds will be replaced by a product that will improve patient comfort.

The current underpads that are used to protect bed mattresses are quite bulky. The new reusable pads weigh 25% less, are more absorbent, and lie flatter on the bed providing a more comfortable surface for patients and residents.

The conversion to the new pads will begin in Regina. The whole province will transition to new pads within two years.

“The goal of Hospital Laundry Services is to make the patient experience more pleasant,” says Giles Vanderlann, Manager, Hospital Laundry Services for Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region. “The introduction of the ‘fusion’ pads has significant clinical benefits because the pads wick moisture away from the skin. Plus, the low profile of the pads fosters patient comfort.”

In addition to improving comfort to patients and residents, the new pads provide other benefits to the system:

- Reduced bulkiness and weight reduces processing (or laundering) costs.
- The new underpads have a 25% longer life. Savings will be captured because the pads will not need to be replaced as often.
- Lighter weight and bulkiness will make the pads easier to handle and store, improving worker safety and inventory management
- Further costs could be achieved by improving bed-making processes. In many cases, the underpads are used for patients that do not require them. Setting criteria for use and eliminating the use of this product where it is not necessary could further reduce processing and replacement costs.

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By the numbers...



- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region processes 150,000 underpads per year
- The new fusion pads will cost 20¢ less per pad to process
- RQHR will save \$30,000 per year to process the new pads



**Working Together...
for Patients & Families**

3sHealth provides province-wide shared services to support a high performing, sustainable, patient and family centred health system in Saskatchewan.