

# Broadsheet

## Provincial Linen Service Updates

### Linen transition leaders meet

The health region representatives who guided their organizations through the transition to the new provincial linen service met in Regina on April 15<sup>th</sup> to review the transition and discuss future work as the linen project becomes a 3sHealth service line. Those at the meeting were able to share the lessons learned during the transition discussing what worked, what could be done differently and what advice they would give to other transition projects.



Sean Jackson, plant manager explains folding process at the Regina plant

The group also discussed recent service line improvements, communications, future improvements to the service and the establishment of linen advisory committees.

The meeting was concluded with a tour of the new K-Bro Linen Systems processing plant.

“It was amazing to see the inner workings of the new plant first hand,” said Shirley Wheeler, Director, Environmental Services for Sun Country Health Region. “I have been part of the transition planning from the very beginning and to see how our linen is being processed now is great. It will allow me to answer questions my staff have about some of the changes we have experienced as a result of the new service.”



May 9, 2016

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### Infection prevention and control an important part of the new service

On April 20<sup>th</sup> the 3sHealth linen team and representatives from K-Bro met with provincial Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) professionals to provide them with an overview of the new provincial linen service. Those learned about the work that has been completed during transition to the new service including service line improvements including the establishment of provincial standards and audits, inventory optimization, accuracy targets, education and practices that protect both staff and patients from infection risks, and methods to measure customer satisfaction. Surgical linen standards, the switch to plastic bags for soiled linen, automated data collection on surgical linen items and new technology to reduce contamination

The group also learned of the audit measures that specifically related to IPC including third party testing for bacteria counts and sanitation. Provincial standards based on the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) and Canadian Standards Association (CAS) were also discussed.

Most importantly, a framework for future collaborative work with the IPC group was discussed including:

- How the IPC group can work with 3sHealth and K-Bro on the future standardization of general and surgical linen products to ensure that all facilities are providing the same level of protection for patients and staff across the province
- Continued improvements to linen handling standards (both clean and soiled) to reduce the risk of infection
- How the IPC group can support the service's engagement work with the Linen Advisory, Surgical Linen and Resident and Patient Advisory Committees.

Meetings to discuss further work are planned.

### New! Watch for Safer Practice Alerts



Safer practice alerts advise hospitals, long term care and other health services of potential safety issues. A risk assessment is required at a local level to determine the response required and the relevance of the information. 3sHealth will issue Safer Practice Alerts as these elements have been determined.

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