

Broadsheet

Provincial Linen Service Updates

July 28, 2016

Surgical linen standardization

Standardization of all linen, including operating room (OR) or surgical linen, is a critical component of Saskatchewan's linen service strategy. It supports the province's commitment to a health system that puts patients first.

There is no question that standardized OR linens will enhance patient safety and reduce risk of infection. Using the same product for the same procedure across the province will help staff who often work in different facilities or transfer from site to site throughout their careers.

Standardization of surgical linen will:

- Ensure consistent quality
- Ensure consistent supply
- Eliminate duplication and variability in the inventory pool
- Ensure consistent infection prevention and control practices
- Enable standard work processes
- Significantly reduce ordering and packing errors
- Eliminate folding and presentation errors

Standardized surgical linen products are selected based upon:

- Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards and leading industry practices
- Extensive use of these products throughout Canada
- Consultation with health regions, infection prevention and control practitioners, surgeons, and OR nurses

Patients will benefit when older linens are removed from the inventory and K-Bro (KOR) surgical linen products are introduced. Benefits include:

- New fabric technologies to meet CSA standards. Current provincial surgical drapes are level 1 barrier products; KOR surgical drapes are levels 2 and 4 liquid and viral barrier products for enhanced patient and surgical personnel safety.
- Enhanced infection control and quality of KOR standard surgical drapes due to traceability of individually barcoded items that are tracked and tested upon use throughout their lifespan.
- Product integrity and availability, as standard KOR surgical linen products are continually restocked through electronic inventory management.

Once standardized, the chance of mixing products or sending the wrong product to the customer is eliminated. On the other hand, in a non-standardized process, there is almost a guarantee customers will get the wrong product on occasion.

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Surgical linen standardization isn't unique

Across Canada, standardized linens are already being used in numerous hospital operating rooms, including:

- Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto
- Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto
- University of Alberta Hospital, Edmonton
- Alberta Children's Hospital, Calgary
- Foothills Hospital, Calgary
- University of British Columbia Hospital, Vancouver
- Abbotsford Regional Hospital, Abbotsford

Up next

We will begin rolling out the new standardized OR linen products in the fall in Saskatoon, Regina Qu'Appelle, and Prince Albert Parkland Health Regions. A provincial surgical linen advisory committee with representation across the province will soon be established to guide the launch of this initiative, and to support the ongoing success of standardization as it relates to surgical linens.

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