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# **Infection Prevention & Control Standard Operating Protocol**

## **Protocol for restricted bed movement between wards and departments within hospitals (Version 1)**

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# Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB)

## Standard Operating Protocol for restricted bed movement between wards and departments within hospitals (Version 1)

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 A number of studies have looked at potential cross-contamination risks associated with patient equipment, including beds. These have included contamination mattresses, cot rails and bed frames, which have been demonstrated to be contaminated with pathogens such as MRSA, *Acinetobacter spp.*, Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus, fungi, and *C. difficile*.
- 1.2 Decontamination of beds between patients is critical. In 2010, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) issued a Medical Device Alert (MDA/2010/002) providing advice and guidance for checking possible mattress contamination.
- 1.3 All beds and mattresses should be cleaned and disinfected in line with manufacturers' guidelines.
- 1.4 However, effective cleaning of beds whilst they remain occupied may be extremely challenging. As such, ensuring that bed movement between wards and departments is kept to a minimum can prevent mobile equipment, such as beds and chairs, from contaminating numerous clinical environments.

### 2. Protocol

- 2.1 To prevent contaminated beds moving from ward to ward, the following Standard Operating Procedure process for the transfer for patients between departments and wards will apply.
- 2.2 **An assessment will be made by the nurse-in-charge of the originating ward:**
  - Patients needing transfer to other wards, and who are reasonably well, must be transported in a wheelchair.
  - Patients who are unwell must be transferred from bed-to-bed using appropriate manual handling techniques. A clean bed from the receiving ward will be brought to the originating ward for the transfer.
  - Patients who are very sick, dying, and/or using special equipment, e.g. bariatric bed or pressure relieving mattress, can remain on their bed for transfer.
  - Porters can return the clean, unused bed to the originating ward.
- 2.3 **The nurse in charge of the receiving ward will assess whether the transfer was appropriate and inform Infection Prevention and Control team of any breaches to this standard.**

2.4 All staff must refer and adhere to relevant Swansea Bay UHB Manual Handling protocols relating to the transfer and handling of patients.

### 3. References/Literature Review

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