

TO FIND OUT THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF LAUNDRY PROCESS APPLIED TO BED LINEN (BED SHEETS) IN SELECTED HOSPITALS OF KARACHI.

OBJECTIVES

- (i) To find out the extent of application of International / In-built laundry standards to bed linen (bed sheets) in the selected hospitals of Karachi.
- (ii) To find out the reasons behind the non-application of ISO's laundry standards on Bed linen (Bed Sheets) in the selected hospitals of Karachi.
- (iii) To find out the different processes involved in Laundry as applied to Bed Linen (Bed Sheets) in the selected hospitals of Karachi.

ABSTRACT

Hospital laundry is a term necessary and associated with infection control, adequate linen supply and general health and safety of patients and interrelated peoples. The purpose of this study was to find out the nature and extent of laundry processes applied to bed linen specifically bed sheets (BL/BS) in selected hospitals of Karachi, the sample size consists of 12 hospitals of Karachi, which is one fourth representation of Karachi Hospitals, questionnaire was raised to gather information & judgment was based on the views of respondents and International Standards Organization (ISO) recommended laundry standards. The Results revealed that maximum hospitals are not following ISO's laundry standards and applying there own In-Built standards of laundry (IBL.S). When these standards were compared with ISO's laundry standards they were found to be lacking in some necessary procedures like temperature during washing is incorrect and do not use bacteria killer on bed sheet after washing etc; which can cause harmful effect on patients and other related peoples. Rather then this it is observed that hospitals following I.B.L.S. give the reason like lack of knowledge and lack of space behind the non application of ISO's laundry standard which are actually not very genuine reason. In view of this it is recommended that government should take important measures to make the application of ISO's laundry standards compulsory for bed sheets in the hospitals of Karachi in order to provide maximum hygienic facilities in BL/BS to patients and other related peoples.

KEY WORDS: Infection control, BL/BS, ISO, IBL.S.