



Last revised: 06 April 2020

HPC Consultation Services Waterloo Wellington

Infection Control: End of Life and After Death Care Considerations for Long-Term Care Homes

Many long-term care homes provide residents and their families with carts or baskets with essential comfort supplies near the end of life.

A solution that avoids reusing baskets or carts between residents is to provide comfort items in a disposable bag that can be discarded after use.

Click [here](#) for the Palliative Care Alliance Comfort Care Bag:

Prior to, and after the death of a resident, long-term care homes often honour their residents with such memorial items such as battery-operated candles, placemats, 'Butterfly' decals and quilts draped over the body at time of removal by the funeral home. Strategies need to be put in place to reduce contamination, and care must be taken to ensure that these items are properly handled and cleaned after each use.

Here is a link to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings, 3rd Edition \(2018\)](#):

- **Section 7.1** Management of Laundry and Bedding
- **Appendix 2:** Cleaning and Disinfection Decision Chart for Noncritical Equipment
- **Appendix 8:** Recommended Minimum Cleaning and Disinfection Level and Frequency for Noncritical Client/Patient/Resident Care Equipment and Environmental Items
- **Appendix 21:** Risk Stratification Matrix to Determine Frequency of Cleaning