

Mattress Audit Tool for Care Homes

This audit tool aims to identify mattresses and mattress covers in poor condition. Mattresses and covers in a poor condition are known to be a source of healthcare associated infection.

This 'Mattress Audit Tool' has been adapted in response to the Care Quality Commission *Practice Alert September 2009: Mattresses*.

Action

- Each mattress and mattress cover should be reviewed on a regular basis, the frequency of which should be based upon a local risk assessment.
- Mattresses should be enclosed in a waterproof cover.
- Mattress covers should be numbered. It may not be possible to label some mattress covers, i.e. special mattresses. An appropriate system must be in place to identify these mattresses.
- In the event of mattress or mattress cover failure, action plans must be drawn up locally, reviewed and monitored.
- Completed audit tools should be kept locally for good practice assurance and as evidence for CQC inspections.

Instructions for checking a mattress and cover

Hand Compression Assessment

1. Where appropriate, adjust the height of the bed so that it is at the same level as the tester's hip.
2. Link hands to form a fist and place them on the mattress.
3. Keep elbows straight and lean forward, applying the full body weight to the mattress.
4. Repeat the hand compression at intervals along the entire length of the mattress.
5. The mattress should be condemned if the base of the bed can be felt at any point.

Water Penetration test (only for sealed cover mattress without a zip)

Water penetration testing should only be carried out on mattresses that have a sealed cover, i.e. no zip which make it impossible to inspect the core mattress. This is intended as a quick positive check to determine whether or not the mattress cover is permeable to fluids.

1. Using the fist, press the mattress cover to form a shallow well in the centre of the mattress where it would have high usage or any areas of concern.
2. Pour on a small volume of tap water (approximately ½ teacup/75 ml) in the well and agitate the area for about one minute.
3. Visually inspect for loss of water/water penetration which indicates failure of the test.
4. Mop up the water.

Turning Mattresses

Many new mattresses do not require turning. However, if the mattress does require turning, this should be carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

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Name of establishment			
Unit name (if applicable)			
Room number/mattress location (bed space)		Mattress number (if applicable)	
Audit completed by		Date	
Job title			

Criteria for mattress covers	Yes	No	N/A
1. Is there a breach in the integrity of the mattress cover, e.g. torn or damaged?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Removable mattress covers: is the mattress cover fastening compromised, e.g. is the zip or any other cover fastening device broken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Non-removable mattress covers, e.g. no zip: did the cover fail the 'Water Penetration test' (see page 1)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does the mattress cover have any staining that cleaning cannot remove?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If the answers to any of the above questions are yes, the mattress cover has failed and must be replaced.	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	

Criteria for mattresses	Yes	No	N/A
1. Undo the removable cover. Is the mattress soiled or stained? (not applicable to sealed mattress covers without a zip)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the mattress have an offensive odour?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Did the mattress fail the 'hand compression assessment' (see page 1) (not applicable to air mattresses).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If the answers to any of the above questions are yes, the mattress has failed and must be replaced.	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	