

## Infection Prevention & Control Audit Tool: **Mattresses in Care Homes**

This audit tool aims to identify mattress covers and mattresses that are in poor condition. There is a potential for cross-infection if contaminated mattresses remain in use.

<b>Name of Care Home:</b>				
<b>Audit Completed By:</b>				
<b>Job Title/Designation:</b>				
<b>Date of Audit :</b>				
<b>Number of Beds:</b>	Capacity		Occupied	

<b>Instructions for checking a mattress and cover</b>	
<b>Hand Compression Assessment</b>	
<b>1</b>	Where appropriate, adjust the height of the bed so that it is at the same level as the tester's hip.
<b>2</b>	Link hands to form a fist and place them on the mattress.
<b>3</b>	Keep elbows straight and lean forward, applying the full body weight to the mattress.
<b>4</b>	Repeat the hand compression at intervals along the entire length of the mattress.
<b>5</b>	The mattress should be condemned if the base of the bed can be felt at any point.
<b>Water Penetration Test (<i>only for mattresses with a sealed cover and without a zip ie divan style</i>)</b>	
Water penetration testing should only be carried out on mattresses that have a sealed cover, i.e. mattresses without a zip, making it impossible to inspect the core/inner mattress. This is intended as a quick positive check to determine whether or not the mattress cover is permeable to fluids.	
<b>1</b>	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.
<b>2</b>	Pour on a small volume of tap water (approximately ½ teacup/75 ml) in the well and agitate the area for about one minute.
<b>3</b>	Visually inspect for loss of water/water penetration which indicates failure of the test.
<b>4</b>	Mop up the water.

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PLEASE TICK ✓

Question	Mattress 1			Mattress 2			Mattress 3			Mattress 4			Mattress 5				
	Room No:			Room No:			Room No:			Room No:			Room No:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A	Yes	No	N/A		
1	Is there a breach in the integrity of the mattress cover, e.g. torn or damaged?																
2	Removable mattress covers: is the mattress cover fastening compromised, e.g. is the zip or any other cover fastening device broken?																
3	Non-removable mattress covers, e.g. no zip: did the cover fail the 'water penetration' test?																
4	Does the mattress outer cover have any staining that cleaning cannot remove?																
5	Undo the outer cover. Is the inner foam soiled or stained? <i>(not applicable to sealed mattress covers without a zip)</i>																
6	Did the mattress fail the 'hand compression assessment'? <i>(not applicable to air mattresses)</i>																
<i>If the answers to any of the above questions are yes, the mattress cover has failed, action must be taken to replace cover and decontaminate inner foam appropriately (this must be done via manufacturer) or to replace entire mattress.</i>																	
Pass			Fail			Pass			Fail			Pass			Fail		

