



**PATIENT/ RELATIVES/ CARERS INFORMATION LEAFLET FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF SOILED, CONTAMINATED OR DAMAGED CLOTHING**

As there are no laundry facilities for patients clothing available within the Mater Misericordiae University Hospital (MMUH) the purpose of this information leaflet is to provide information on how to care for the patient's soiled, contaminated or damaged clothing.

Your relatives clothing has been put into an alginate bag (orange) that is compatible with domestic washing machines. The seams and tie of the bag dissolve in the washing machine at any water temperature. This means that you can take the washing home and put it directly into the washing machine at 40 degrees without opening the bag or handling the soiled linen.

For best results please follow these recommendations:

- Place the unopened patient clothing bag (orange) into the washing machine on its own. Do not add other articles of linen or clothing to the machine.
- Wash the clothing at 40 degrees. The seam and tie of the bag will dissolve thus, releasing the contents of the bag and allow it to be washed.
- Use a biological powder / tablet / liquid as per normal wash.
- Wash hands to reduce risk of any cross contamination.
- Once the washing machine cycle is complete, please remove the now clean plastic bag as this does not dissolve, and dispose of it in your normal household waste.
- Do not tumble dry the plastic bag.
- Dry the clothing as normal

This information leaflet is also available on the hospital website in the Patient & Visitors section <http://www.mater.ie/patient/default.htm>
Please ask hospital staff if you need any help with this leaflet.