

Mattresses and covers in a poor condition are known to be a source of healthcare-associated infection. This audit tool aims to identify any mattresses or mattress covers that are in a poor condition. At the same time the bed / mattress / bedrail setup will be assessed for safety.

GOOD PRACTICE

- Each mattress and mattress cover should be reviewed on a monthly basis.
- All mattresses should be enclosed in a waterproof cover.
- Mattress covers should be numbered. It may not be possible to label some mattress covers, such as special mattresses. An appropriate system must be in place to identify these mattresses.
- In the event of mattress or mattress cover failure, action plan should be produced and reviewed regularly.
- Completed audit tools should be kept locally for good practice assurance and as evidence for CQC compliance.

PROCEDURES FOR CHECKING A MATTRESS AND COVER

Hand Compression Assessment

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

Water Penetration Test (only for sealed cover mattresses without a zip)

Water penetration testing should only be carried out on mattresses that have a sealed cover, with no zip, which means it is 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.

- Using the fist, press down the mattress cover to form a shallow well in the centre of the mattress, an area that receives frequent use and where any areas of concern may be present.
- Pour a small volume of water (around ½ teacup or 75 ml) into the well and agitate the area for about one minute.
- Visually inspect for loss of water or water penetration, indicating failure of the test.
- Mop up the water.

Turning Mattresses

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

Bedrails

A number of potential gaps can be created between bed, mattress and bed rails. It is important that the gaps are small enough (less than 120mm) to prevent head or limb getting caught. Bedrail height should be 220mm above mattress.

Home Name	
Audit completed by	
Date	
Mattress / Room location	
Mattress ID / type / make	
Notes	

Criteria for Mattress Covers	Yes	No	N/A
Is there a breach in the integrity of the mattress cover, e.g. torn or damaged?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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"/>
Non-removable mattress covers (e.g. no zip) - Did the cover fail the water penetration test?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does the mattress cover have any soiling 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
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"/>
Does the mattress have an offensive odour?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Did the mattress fail the hand decompression assessment?	<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"/>	

Criteria for Bedrails	Yes	No	N/A
Are bedrails currently being used?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is distance between top of mattress and top of side rail greater than 220mm? (If No record actual height here _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Is gap between side rail and mattress less than 120mm? (If No record actual height here _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
If answer to either of the last two questions are No, both the bed set-up and iCare bedrail risk assessment should be reviewed .	Fail <input type="checkbox"/>	Pass <input type="checkbox"/>	