Clean, Safe and Healthy Environment In-service

Providing a safe, clean, and orderly environment has always been an essential part of home health care. Illness and disability cause great stress. Patients feel better physically and psychologically when their homes receive care and support. Infection and accidents can also be prevented with maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

Bathroom Cleaning	Housekeeping
- Be sure to wear gloves. - When cleaning, always wash from clean areas to dirty areas, so you do not spread dirt into areas that have already been washed. - Flush the toilet each time it is used. - Wipe down the tub/shower after each use. - Make sure water is not left on the floor. - Hang up or wash used towels. - Rinse the sink after providing oral care, hygiene, and shaving. - Keep soiled trash away from food prep areas	- Keep trash and clutter picked up. - Clean up after providing any services. - Take out the trash to keep the home clean and odor free. - Disinfect any surfaces that may have contact with body fluids such as bedpans, urinals, toilets, and bedside commodes. - Change bed linens as necessary - Sweep, vacuum, mop floors - Clean kitchen after meal prep and/or feeding - Make bed after patient gets up for the day

Home health aides may be required to provide laundry assistance for patients due to soiled linens or clothing or to clean up after bathing. It is important to read clothing labels and tags to check for specialized instructions or directions. Laundry should be sorted by colors in order to prevent color bleeding and fading. Be sure to check with your patient or their family member to see if they prefer laundry to be washed at certain temperatures; however, soiled linens should be washed with hot water and with a little bleach if available as long as the bleach will not ruin the material.

Laundry
- Wash soiled linens and clothing.   - Keep patient's laundry separate from other family members'.   - Handle dirty laundry as little as possible (do not shake it).   - Be sure to rinse any soiled linens in the toilet prior to putting them in the washing machine   - Hold dirty laundry away from your clothes and body.   - Make sure laundry is completely dry prior to folding or putting away.

Home health aides are not responsible for providing housekeeping and laundry services to other members in the patient's household. If you are asked to clean up after a patient's family member or do their laundry, please contact a nursing supervisor. If you do not have the supplies necessary to maintain a clean and safe environment for your patient, please contact a nursing or client supervisor.