



NEWS RELEASE

## IAHTM: Collaboration Among IPs, Healthcare Laundries Essential to Ensuring Hygienically Clean, Safe Textiles

Powell, OH – Feb. 2, 2017 – Rocco Romeo, board president the International Association for Healthcare Textile Management (IAHTM), recently told an audience of Infection Preventionists (IPs) of the need for stronger collaboration with healthcare laundries to ensure hygienically clean and safe textiles.

“Our job (the healthcare laundry’s job) is to ensure that every piece of linen that touches a patient is free from contamination,” Romeo told IPs who were attending a fall educational conference held by the New England Chapter of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC). “This takes advocacy from and partnership with you.”

IAHTM is a nonprofit membership organization for healthcare laundry cooperatives that provides senior-level textile managers with resources and support to maximize their laundries’ efficiencies and control costs without compromising quality or patient focus.

IAHTM leadership is regularly asked to present at relevant industry forums. At APIC, Romeo advised IPs of the necessity for the hospital to demand that their healthcare laundry adheres to the most rigorous laundry standards for patient safety and infection prevention. He said the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council, [www.hlacnet.org](http://www.hlacnet.org), is recognized as “the gold” standard for healthcare laundries among healthcare leaders and decision makers.

Romeo also advised IPs to make it a point to visit their healthcare laundries on a regular basis, “at least once per year.” He noted that many IPs in their visits use the HLAC Standards [checklist](#) when inspecting healthcare laundries.

### **About IAHTM**

Founded in 1968, the International Association for Healthcare Textile Management (IAHTM) is a nonprofit organization serving healthcare laundry cooperatives. IAHTM membership comprises experienced laundry executives serving 7,000 healthcare facilities in the USA and Canada. IAHTM members have access to training and education programs, benchmarking resources, peer information sharing and networking, and group purchasing power on textiles and chemicals. [www.iahtm.com](http://www.iahtm.com)