(A) Policy Statement

All refrigerators, microwaves, and ice machines will be cleaned and documented on the appropriate monitoring tool and maintained in the department where the equipment is placed.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To ensure that appropriate cleaning and monitoring is performed as required, documentation is maintained of the monitoring and actions taken to ensure equipment is maintained in optimal functionality and cleanliness.

(C) Procedure

(1) Refrigerators:

(a) Will have a functioning thermometer present in a visible location inside the unit.

(b) Will be monitored continuously.

(c) Departments not electronically monitored will use a log to collect the data, note out of range readings and contact the Facilities Department for out of range results.

(d) If refrigerator found to be out of range for:

   (i) Food: Dietary Manager will be notified to remove all perishables.

   (ii) Pharmaceutical: Contact Pharmacy to determine if pharmaceuticals are safe for use.

(e) All refrigerators designated for specific use (e.g., patient's food, staff food, medications, and specimens) and will be labeled as such. (Labels can be obtained through Safety and Health or Infection Prevention and Control).

(f) The acceptable range for refrigerators for food is less than 41°F and 36-46°F for medications.

(g) Patient food refrigerator cleaning will be done weekly or as needed by Environmental Services.

(h) Food and Nutrition Services will clean small spills when restocking.
(i) Specimen refrigerators will be labeled with biohazard symbol placed in a prominent location.

(2) Microwaves:

(a) All microwaves are to be cleaned daily when used, with the hospital-approved sanitizer by Environmental Services (Note: not the hospital-approved disinfectant).

(b) Cleaning will include the cavity and seal of the unit and be done daily or, if not in use, weekly by the Environmental Services Department.