Name of Policy: **Temperature Monitoring** **Policy Number**: 3364-107-318 **Approving Officer**: Medical Director, Clinical Pathology **Responsible Agent**: Director, Clinical Pathology Administrative Director, Lab **Scope**: Pathology-Laboratory	**Effective date:** 01/04/2025 **Original effective date**: 11/2012
Key words: Temperature dependent equipment, monitoring techniques, temperature ranges, thermometers, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).	

☐	New policy proposal	☐	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
☐	Major revision of existing policy	☒	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

The University of Toledo Medical Center Laboratories has a system to monitor temperature of equipment and devices for storage of critical materials.

(B) Purpose of policy

To ensure the proper functioning of temperature dependent equipment and environments, such as refrigerators, freezers, heating blocks, water baths, incubators, and test-dependent ambient temperature, the temperatures will be taken daily, recorded, and acted upon in the event of failure. In the laboratories that are not operational every day, minimum and maximum temperatures will be recorded using a device designated for monitoring temperature over a period of days.

(C) Procedure

1. The temperature of each refrigerator, freezer, any walk-in refrigerator/freezer, or ambient/room temperature that affects testing should be taken daily, recorded, and initialed on an appropriate temperature log. The temperatures of heating blocks, water baths, and incubators, or ovens (when temperature control is necessary for a procedure) should be taken and recorded on each day of use. Record temperature readings on appropriate form. Acceptable ranges must be defined for all temperature dependent equipment or environments, in accordance with the manufacturer instructions.
2. Minimum/maximum thermometers may be used in areas that do not provide testing each day.
    a. Refrigerators, freezers, incubators: There must be evidence of corrective action taken if unacceptable temperatures are obtained on any piece of temperature-dependent equipment.
    b. In areas where room temperature tests are performed or reagents are affected by temperature or humidity, the monitor must be recorded each day of testing. Record temperature or humidity of approved form. Document any corrective action.

   c. Heating blocks or water baths: If unacceptable temperatures are obtained, do not use the equipment for testing.
   d. Blood Bank temperature Recording: Refer to Blood Bank quality control policy/procedures.
3. Lab Administration is responsible for setting temperature limits for each device based on contents and regulatory standards.

Asset type	**Temperature Range**
Laboratory Refrigerator	2°C – 8°C
Laboratory Freezer	-30°C – -10°C
Laboratory Incubator	28°C – 38°C
Blood Bank Refrigerator	1°C – 6°C
Blood Bank Freezer	Below -18°C

4. Verification of thermometers: An appropriate thermometric standard device of known accuracy, guaranteed to meet NIST Standards must be used, or thermometers may be discarded, and new ones ordered and placed into service when verification is required.

Approved by: /s/_____ Name: Amira Gohara, M.D. Title: Medical Director, Clinical Pathology 1/10/2025_____ Date *Review/Revision Completed by:* *Joshua Otiso, Administrative Director, Lab*	**Policies Superseded by This Policy:** • Initial effective date: 11/2012 Review/Revision Date: 01/04/2025 Next review date: 01/04/2027