(A) Policy Statement

All warming cabinets and similar devices used to heat patient care items will be appropriately monitored and meet standards for the safety of patients.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To ensure that patient care items that are warmed prior to use meet appropriate/safe temperature standards.

(C) Scope

The University of Toledo Medical Center

(D) Background

National standards are currently not established for this issue. Several organizations have published recommendations and are cited. The organization is establishing internal standards based on a review of the pertinent literature.

(E) Policy

1. Warming of Intravenous Fluids (I.V.)

   Intravenous fluids are to be warmed exclusively by a device designed to warm I.V. solutions. Warming cabinets and microwave ovens are not to be used to warm I.V. solutions. They are to be warmed according to the device manufacturers’ recommendations and must be consistent with the I.V. solution manufacturers’ recommendations.

2. Warming of Fluids for Irrigation

   Fluids for irrigation may be warmed in devices up to 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius). Fluids should be cooled to approximate normal body temperature before use (98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, 37 degrees Celsius). Fluids will be rotated out of the warming device according to manufacturers’ recommendations.

3. Warming of Blankets, Towels, Towelettes

   Blankets, towels, towelettes and other items intended to contact the patient’s skin can be warmed up to 130 degrees Fahrenheit, 54 degrees Celsius.

4. Warming Cabinets

   Solutions and blankets (other items) should not be warmed in the same device unless:

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1 Letter from Baxter Corporation dated December 7, 2010 (attached)
a. there are separate (dual) chambers with separate temperature controls and each chamber can be monitored independently, or
b. the device temperature does not exceed 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. Warmed I.V. and irrigation solution bags should not be used to warm a patient's skin.

(F) Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of each department that warms patient care items to develop processes and procedures to monitor compliance to this policy.
2. Biomedical Engineering is responsible for device maintenance.

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<th>Review/Revision Date:</th>
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<td>/s/ Richard Swaine, CPA, Chief Executive Officer</td>
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Policies Superseded by This Policy: None