(A) Policy Statement

Handling and consumption of food will be managed according to the following procedure. Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) representatives will not serve food prepared outside the department.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To protect patients and staff from cross-contamination and infection related to food.

(C) Procedure

(1) Patient Food
   (a) FANS representatives will not serve food to patients that was prepared outside the FANS department.
      (i) Family members or friends of inpatients will be discouraged from bringing food from outside of the facility.
      (ii) Foods or beverages brought in by family or friends must be taken directly to the patient’s room for immediate consumption.
      (iii) No food or beverages previously in a patient’s room will be allowed to be stored in the nourishment room or refrigerator, including items from their meal trays.
      (iv) No open containers or partially eaten foods will be kept inside unit refrigerators (This includes partial individual soda and milk).

   (b) Stock supply of patient food will be stored in the galley/kitchen of each unit. Commercial or dietary prepared foods will have an expiration date and must be rotated according to the expiration date.

(2) Employee Food
   Employee food will be stored in a separate, designated refrigerator, away from patient food and medications.
(3) Eating and Drinking on the Clinical Units
Due to the structure of the clinical units, it has been determined that eating food will not be allowed in the clinical units, except in the break room or other designated area(s) in the departments. Drinking beverages which are covered with lids will be allowed in areas where there are no specimens, medications, or other contaminated equipment.

(4) Equipment Cleaning
(a) Dietary department will clean up small spills when restocking the units.
(b) Housekeeping will clean food service equipment as needed.

(5) Food and Nutrition rooms located on the inpatient departments to be accessed by UTMC employees and staff only. Visitors and patient will be restricted from accessing these areas.

References:

Approved by:

/s/ Joshua Krupinski
Director of Food and Nutrition Services

/s/
Michael Ellis, MD
Chair, Infection Control Committee

/s/
Richard Swaine
Chief Executive Officer - UTMC

Review/Revision Date:
6/05
06/02/2008
07/01/2011
07/01/2014
06/30/2017
10/14/2019
01/19/2023

Next Review Date:
8/1/2026

Policies Superseded by This Policy: 3364-109-EQP-308