Cleaning and Monitoring of Refrigerators, Name of Policy: Microwaves, Ice Machines THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO MEDICAL CENTER **Policy Number:** 3364-109-EOP-304 **Department:** Infection Control **Hospital Administration** Medical Staff **Approving Officer:** Chairperson, Infection Control Committee Chief of Staff Chief Medical Officer **Responsible Agent:** Infection Preventionist **Effective Date:** 12/1/2022 Scope: The University of Toledo Medical Center and Initial Effective Date: 4/1/1999 its Medical Staff New policy proposal X Minor/technical revision of existing policy Major revision of existing policy Reaffirmation of existing policy

## (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 providing temperature readings of the unit.
  - (b) Will be monitored routinely by staff.
  - (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 is 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) Refrigerators designated for specific use (e.g., staff food, medications, and specimens) 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) Medication refrigerators are cleaned by unit managers or pharmacy.

Policy 3364-109-EQP-304 Cleaning and Monitoring of Refrigerators, Microwaves, Ice Machines Page 2

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

### (2) Microwaves:

- (a) Microwaves for patient use should be cleaned after each use by staff and will be cleaned daily with 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.

#### (3) Ice Machines:

- (a) Ice machines will be cleaned and have preventative maintenance by the Facilities Management Department biannually, or as needed.
- (b) Environmental Services will clean the outside surfaces of the ice machines weekly, or as needed.
- (c) Ice that must be removed from a bin must be scooped with a utensil with a handle.
- (d) All tongs or utensils must be stored in a manner that prevents contamination of the utensil's handle and scoop end that touches the ice.
- (e) Only ice designated as food will be used for consumption.

#### References

Chapter 3171: Retail Food Establishments; Food Service Operations. (n.d.). Retrieved November 17, 2022 from http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3717

Chapter 3717-1: State of Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. (n.d.) Retrieved on November 17, 2022 from <a href="http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3717-1">http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3717-1</a>

Chapter 3701: Food Service Operations. (n.d.). Retrieved November 17, 2022 from <a href="http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-21">http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/3701-21</a>

Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases: Vaccine Storage and Handling (2020, July) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/vac-storage.html

Refrigerator Thermometers: Cold Facts about Food Safely (2017, Oct). *U. S. Food and Drug Administration*. <a href="https://www.fda.gov/food/resourcesforyou/consumers/ucm253954.htm">https://www.fda.gov/food/resourcesforyou/consumers/ucm253954.htm</a>

Policy 3364-109-EQP-304 Cleaning and Monitoring of Refrigerators, Microwaves, Ice Machines Page 3

Approved by:		Review/Revision Date: 05/01/1999
Michael Ellis, MD Chairperson, Infection Control Committee	11/28/2022 Date	04/15/2002 04/21/2005 05/19/2008 04/25/2011 07/01/2014 06/30/2017
/s/ Andrew Casabianca, MD, DDS Chief of Staff	12/01/2022 Date	08/11/2020 11/17/2022
/s/ Michael Ellis, MD Chief Medical Officer	11/28/2022 Date	
Review/Revision Completed By: Infection Control Committee  olicies Superseded by This Policy: 3364-109-EQP-30		Next Review Date: 11/2025