Name of Policy:  Cleaning and Monitoring of Refrigerators, Microwaves, Ice Machines

Policy Number:  3364-109-EQP-304

Department:  Infection Control
Hospital Administration
Medical Staff

Approving Officer:  Chairperson, Infection Control Committee
Chief of Staff
Chief Medical Officer

Responsible Agent:  Infection Preventionist

Scope:  The University of Toledo Medical Center and its Medical Staff

Effective Date:  12/1/2022
Initial Effective Date:  4/1/1999

(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.
(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


### Approved by:

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<td>/s/ Michael Ellis, MD</td>
<td>11/28/2022</td>
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<td>Chairperson, Infection Control Committee</td>
<td>Date</td>
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<td>/s/ Andrew Casabianca, MD, DDS</td>
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*Review/Revision Completed By: Infection Control Committee*

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*Next Review Date: 11/2025*

### Policies Superseded by This Policy: 3364-109-EQP-30