Handling and consumption of food will be managed according to the following procedure.

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

Patient Food:
- Stock supply of patient food will be stored in the galley/kitchen of each clinical unit
- Food needing to be refrigerated will be stored in the patient designated refrigerator
- Stock must be rotated by date
- No open containers will be kept in the refrigerator
- Partially eaten foods will not be kept in the refrigerator (This includes partial individual soda)
- Patient food will be labeled with the name, date placed in unit and room number and should be discarded after 3 days from the date indicated and immediately after patient is discharged.
- Commercial or dietary prepared food will have an expiration date
- Family-prepared foods in large quantities should be discouraged

Equipment:
- Dietary department will clean up small spills when restocking the units
- Housekeeping will clean food service equipment weekly
- All refrigerators will be labeled for use, such as FOOD ONLY
- Patient refrigerators will be monitored and documented by the dietary staff.
- Documentation will be maintained with the unit

Staff Food:
- Staff should store their food separate from patient medications and patient food.

Eating and Drinking on the Clinical Units:
- Because of the nature of 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.
- Drinking beverages which are covered with lids will be allowed in areas where there are no specimens, medications or other contaminated equipment.
Policy 3364-109-EQP-308
Food on the Clinical Units
Page 2

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