

SECTION E: INFECTION CONTROL

CHAPTER 22: INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES

PROCEDURE 22.2.2: REFRIGERATOR MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Standard of Practice:

The Registered Nurse will ensure nursing staff maintains the cleanliness of Unit Refrigerator/freezers.

Standard of Care:

The patient can expect that Unit-based refrigerators will be maintained appropriately for storage of personal food items.

Procedure:

1. Nursing staff on the third shift will record Unit refrigerator and freezer temperatures nightly on a designated temperature monitor (see attached). Temperatures with these refrigerators are monitored electronically. No log sheets will be required for these refrigerators only.
2. Nursing Staff will **keep the original temperature log sheet on file and fax a copy to Dietary Support Services at 262-5002 when** completed.
3. Nursing staff on the third shift will clean Unit refrigerator/freezers weekly.
 - remove all items from refrigerator/freezer
 - defrost freezer
 - cleanse interior of refrigerator and freezer
 - discard outdated/non-dated food items
 - **Freezer items need to be discarded within one month**
 - **Items with their own "USE BY" date will be discarded by date on carton**
 - **Opened canned juice will be discarded within 72 hours of opening**
 - **All other perishable items will be discarded within 24 hours if not consumed**
 - **Any item that is properly marked will be discarded**
4. **Any questions about specific items shelf life should be directed to the Unit Dietician or the Food Service Director.**

FOOD REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER TEMPERATURE MONITOR

Unit/Location _____

Month/Year _____

REFRIGERATOR (32 - 49°F)

FREEZER (-10 - 0°F)

1		
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- * Keep original monitor on file and send copy to Director of Food Services in on a monthly basis.
- * If unable to maintain temperature range, despite adjustments, call maintenance immediately for service.

MEDICATION REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER

TEMPERATURE MONITOR

Month/Year _____ Unit/Location _____

REFRIGERATOR (36° - 46°F)

Date	Temperature	Corrective Action (adjustment up or down if applicable)	Outcome (recheck temp. within 1 hour)	Initials
1				
2				
3				
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***Keep completed monitors in a file on unit *If unable to maintain temperature range,
despite adjustments, call maintenance immediately for service.**