Refrigerator/Freezer & Irrigation Solutions/ Blanket Warmer Monitoring

Procedures for Labeling, Content labeling, Temperature monitoring, Logging, and Cleaning

Refrigerator / Freezer Labeling

Exterior Labeling must

- Be labeled according to purpose. (for example, Expressed Breast Milk (EMB), Patient Nutrition, Medication, Specimen, or Miscellaneous)
- Be designated with Biohazard signage if
  - EBM
  - Specimens
- Indicate specific contents (Miscellaneous Items)
  - POCT supplies
  - Viral culture media
Refrigerator / Freezer Contents

Contents Labeling:
Items stored within are labeled according to policy
- EBM (VUMC policy CL 30-19.17)
- Medication (VUMC policy CL 30-06.22)
- Patient or Family Nutrition (Patient Name and Patient Room Number)
- Specimens (VUMC policy CL 30-08.22)
- Miscellaneous Items (Item content, Date opened, Initials of name of person who opened item)

Refrigerator Temperature Logs

Temperatures are recorded daily when storing the following items:
- Expressed Breast Milk
- Patient Nutrition
- Medication
  Twice daily (AM & PM) if storing vaccines.
- Specimens
- Miscellaneous items
**Areas not staffed 24/7**

- Refrigerator / Freezer units that may be unattended for weekends/holidays must be monitored electronically with a min/max thermometer.

- When checking the temperature daily:
  - Verify that the min/max temperatures are within the set range.
  - Reset the thermometer daily.

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**Refrigerator / Freezer Logs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rectangle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Freezer Temp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Temp</td>
<td>Date</td>
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**Refrigerator/Freezer and Irrigation Solutions**

- Blanket Warmer MONITORING

**VUMC: Vaccines - Areas NOT Staffed 24 / 7**

Refrigerator / Freezer Temperature Graph and Cleaning Record

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Refrigerator/ Freezer Temperature Ranges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refrigerators</th>
<th>Medications</th>
<th>Specimens</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35°F to 46°F</td>
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<tr>
<td>35°F to 40°F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Patient Nutrition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33°F to 40°F</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>EBM</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Freezers</th>
<th>Patient Nutrition</th>
<th>Medication</th>
<th>Specimens</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0°F or below</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-4°F or below</td>
<td></td>
<td>EBM</td>
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Cleaning is Required:
- Monthly (inside and outside).
- When visibly soiled.

Cleaning Method:
- Use hospital approved disinfectant.
- Disinfectant is not to come into contact with stored contents.

Cleaning is Documented on the refrigerator/freezer temperature log:
- By marking an “X” under the date of the cleaning.
- Record initials.
Solution /Blanket Warmer Temperatures and Log

- Warmer Unit temperatures in clinical areas serving:
  - Adults – must not exceed 105°F
  - Pediatrics – must not exceed 102°F
- Thermometers used to monitor temperature of unit
- Temperature Logged Daily
- Warmer unit cleaned when visibly soiled
Solution/ Blanket Warmer

- Solution / Blanket Warmers are **NOT** used:
  - For blood or blood products
  - To *RE-WARM* solutions

- Microwave ovens are **NOT** used to:
  - Warm irrigations solutions
  - Warm blankets

**Fluid and Solution Warming: Duration**

- **Plastic Pour Bottles**
  Solution bottle warmed no longer than 72 hours

- **Large Volume Parenterals**
  Volumes >150ml warmed
  - In plastic overpack
  - No longer than 14 days

- **Arthomatic and Uromatic Irrigation Solutions**
  - Warmed in plastic overpack
  - No longer than 14 days
**Fluid and Solution Warmer: Labeling of Contents**

Label solutions PRIOR to placing in warmer with:
- Date & Time fluid/solution placement (MC 3850)
- Date & Time fluid/solution must be removed from warmer
- Notification stating “Warmed, DO NOT Re-warm”

**Fluid and Solution Warmer: Removal of warmed products**

- Remove solution:
  - When maximum time in warmer has been reached.
  - Label as having been warmed.
- Warmed, unopened plastic solution bottles may be used until the labeled expiration date.
- Rotate stock. Place new bottles to the rear of warmer.
Blanket Warmers

Blankets placed in warmers:

- Are clean and free from plastic
- Are NOT placed in contact with exposed heating elements