

USE OF CONTRAST MEDIA WARMER

Purpose: To define the Department of Radiology's guidelines for use of contrast media warmers and contrast warmer logs.

Policy:

1. Contrast media warmers are used to warm IV contrast media
2. Contrast media warmers are not used for long-term storage of contrast media. Consult the Contrast Media Storage for the pertinent package insert for storage recommendations.
3. Contrast media warmers are not used for any other purposes other than warming IV contrast media. Other fluids or items are not allowed in the contrast warmer.
4. Do not place contrast media warmers directly under air conditioning or heating vents, in sunlight or in the front of an open window. Extreme air currents and temperature shifts can cause the warmer to operate out of specifications.
5. Minimize "door opening" time to assure your load is maintained at the proper temperature.
6. Do not place a thermal barrier over the floor or top shelf as this can affect incubator uniformity. Always use the floor shelf (if one is provided) to obtain specified performance.
7. The operator (Technologist) should mark each bottle/vial/flexible container as to the date and time the bottle/vial/flexible container was initially placed in the warmer.
8. The contrast media warmer is to be cleaned weekly. The chamber interior and exterior case may be cleaned with a nonabrasive liquid cleaner applied to a cloth. Moisten cloth, apply cleaner, rinse and wipe clean.
9. The contrast warmer will have a log placed on the front door. The temperature must be logged everyday that the department is open.
10. If the temperature falls into a range that exceeds acceptable, then appropriate action must be taken immediately. See warmer log for instructions.

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