LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER-SHREVEPORT

REFRIGERATOR/FREEZER CHECKS
ON PATIENT CARE UNITS

Purpose:

To ensure drugs and food are stored in a refrigerator/freezer under proper conditions of sanitation, temperature, segregation, and security.

Policy:

1. The temperature in refrigerators containing consumable items in patient care areas must be maintained within a range of 1°C - 6°C (34°F - 43°F). Freezer temperature must be maintained at least 0°C (32°F) or lower. Appropriate measures should be taken if temperatures are out of range, such as adjusting the thermostat, rechecking the temperature and/or notifying Physical Plant. If the refrigerator temperature is above 8°C (46°F) or the freezer temperature is above 1°C (34°F), temporarily relocate food to another refrigerator/freezer with appropriate storage temperature.

2. Temperatures for both refrigerator and freezer are read and recorded in a daily logbook. The logbook shall contain acceptable temperature range for the storage unit, date and time of reading, temperature observed, and initials of person reading, along with any corrective measures taken.

3. Refrigerators shall be cleaned weekly with a diluted bleach solution (1:10). Cleaning of the refrigerator shall be documented in the logbook.

4. Employee and patient consumables may be stored in the same storage unit under the following conditions.
   a. Patient and employee food must be separated.
   b. Employee food storage areas must be below patient food storage areas (i.e. on the lower shelves of the refrigerator).
   c. Employee food storage shelves must be clearly marked (i.e. this shelf for patient food only).

5. Specimens and medications shall not be kept in refrigerators/freezers with consumable supplies.
6. The unit/area manager shall be responsible for assuring that temperature of the refrigerator and freezer are documented at least daily and any necessary corrective measures are accomplished.

7. Physical plant is responsible for performing routine maintenance and upkeep on refrigerators/freezers. Physical Plant should be notified whenever problems arise.

Administrator

2/18/04

Date

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