



CLINICAL POLICY

Management of Off-site Medication Refrigerator and Freezer Temperature Excursion After-hours

A. EFFECTIVE DATE :

January 18, 2022

B. PURPOSE :

All off-site and after hours medication refrigerator and freezer temperature excursions will be managed according to the procedure outlined below to ensure a timely response and product integrity.

C. POLICY :

1. All off-site medications refrigerators and freezers will be monitored by digital data loggers which have alarm parameters set to trigger after 15 consecutive minutes of temperature excursion.
2. Pharmacy on-call personnel will respond to an alarming off-site medication refrigerator or freezer to manage/procure effected product.

D. SCOPE :

This policy applies to all off-site, satellite locations with medication refrigerators.

E. DEFINITIONS :

1. **Refrigerator Temperature Range** – 2 °C (36 °F) to 8 °C (46 °F)
2. **Freezer Temperature Range**– 0 °C (32 °F) to -30 °C (-22 °F)
3. **Temperature Excursion**– A temperature excursion (TE) occurs anytime the refrigerator unit is outside 2.0°C through 8.0°C (36° through 46°F) or a freezer unit is outside 0 °C (32 °F) to -30 °C (-22 °F)

F. MATERIAL(S) NEEDED :

- Alert Beeper
- Stanley - MobileView electronic monitoring system
- Digital data logger, i.e. Aeroscout temperature sensors
- UConn Health Identification Badge
- Insulated tote with icepacks

G. PROCEDURE :

In the event an off-site refrigerator/freezer temperature excursion, the contents of the refrigerator/freezer will be evaluated for potential need to be procured. The following steps shall be followed.

1. On-call Pharmacy IT (PIT) personnel will be alerted per Environmental Control Center (ECC) or switchboard call and/or Stanley alert notification. The alarm is set to trigger when the temperature reaches within a half a degree of TE.
 - a. The PIT will assess the temperature reading from Stanley to determine temperature trend and risk of excursion. If temperature excursion has occurred or temperature trend is eminent of excursion, the PIT will respond on-site to the effected clinic.
 - b. It is expected for the PIT to act on any temperature alert notification and respond to the alert immediately.
 - c. The PIT will place the following phone calls:
 - i. Call x2348 (ECC) so the TE and plan of action can be properly logged in by them
 1. ECC will notify operator to call the clinic's point of contact on file to inform them of PIT response.
 - ii. Call x2121 (UConn Police dispatch) and let police know the building will be accessed after hours due to a failing refrigerator. If responding to a clinic not patrolled by UConn Police, then contact local police department to inform them of entry into building.
2. The TE effected medications taken from the clinic refrigerator/freezer will be packed up in totes with ice-packs and brought to JDH Pharmacy where they will be sequestered for evaluation in the morning.
 - a. Place items in zip-lock type bags, label appropriately and place in ID refrigerator/freezer for evaluation by Medication Safety.
 - i. If vaccines are effected by TE, Medication Safety will inform the Primary Vaccine Coordinator.

H. ATTACHMENTS :

None

I. REFERENCES :

Operational Policy: Medication Temperature Monitoring and Response

J. SEARCH WORDS :

Off-site, after-hours, Medication, Refrigerator, Temperature

K. ENFORCEMENT:

Violations of this policy or associated procedures may result in appropriate disciplinary measures in accordance with University By-Laws, General Rules of Conduct for All University Employees, applicable collective bargaining agreements, the University of Connecticut Student Code, other applicable University Policies, or as outlined in any procedures document related to this policy.

L. STAKEHOLDER APPROVALS :

On File

M. COMMITTEE APPROVALS :

None

N. FINAL APPROVAL :

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. <u>Bruce T. Liang, MD (Signed)</u>
Bruce T. Liang, MD
Interim Chief Executive Officer & EVP for Health Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine | <u>02/8/2022</u>
Date |
| 2. <u>Anne Horbatuck (Signed)</u>
Anne D. Horbatuck, RN, BSN, MBA
Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair | <u>02/04/2022</u>
Date |
| 3. <u>Scott Allen, MD (Signed)</u>
Scott Allen, MD
Clinical Policy Committee Co-Chair | <u>02/04/2022</u>
Date |
| 4. <u>Caryl Ryan (Signed)</u>
Caryl Ryan, MS, BSN, RN
Interim Chief Operating Officer, JDH
VP Quality and Patient Services & Chief Nursing Officer | <u>02/07/2022</u>
Date |

O. REVISION HISTORY :

Date Issued: 01/18/2022