Safe and appropriate fluid warming is supported through documented processes and procedures

INDICATORS:

○ Written policy and procedures to ensure the safe and appropriate warming and storage of intravenous, irrigation and preparation fluids include but are not limited to:
  • a statement that intravenous, irrigation and preparation fluids are warmed using an appropriate device
  • fluid manufacturer’s recommendations for:
    ▪ warming
    ▪ solution stability
    ▪ potential use after removal from warming device
    ▪ expiration after removal from warming device
  • warming device manufacturer’s recommendations
  • identification of warmed fluids (e.g. date placed, “do not re-warm” label)
  • responsibility for monitoring warming device temperature
  • regular biomedical inspection, calibration and maintenance of warming devices (minimum annually)
  • measuring temperature of fluid before use

Safe and appropriately warmed intravenous, irrigation and preparation fluids are provided

INDICATORS:

○ Intravenous, irrigation and preparation fluids are warmed utilizing an appropriate fluid warming device with carefully controlled temperatures

○ Microwave ovens and/or waters bath are not used for warming solutions

○ Microwave ovens are not located in the restricted or semi-restricted areas
STORAGE AND WARMING OF INTRAVENOUS, IRRIGATION AND PREPARATION FLUIDS

- Intravenous, irrigation and preparation fluids are warmed according to the warming device manufacturer’s recommendations and consistent with the fluid manufacturer’s recommendation
- Fluids are dated when placed in a warming device
- Fluids are rotated out of the warming device according to manufacturers’ recommendations
- Previously warmed fluids are not returned to the warming device
- Warming device temperature settings are limited to no higher than 43°C (110°F)
- Warming device temperatures are routinely monitored and recorded
- Temperature of warmed fluids is checked before patient use
- Documentation of regular biomedical inspection, calibration and maintenance

REFERENCES


Petersen C. Clinical issues. Ignoring product label warnings; prepping technique; moving an occupied OR bed; warning cabinet temperatures; reproductive hazards. AORN J [Internet]. 2006 Apr [cited 2012 Feb 6];83(4):943-4. Available from: http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0FSL/is_4_83/ai_n26835204/pg_3/
University of Toledo Medical Center. Warming devices and patient safety: policy 3364-100-50-44 [Internet]. Toledo, OH: University of Toledo; 2011 [cited 2012 Feb 6]. Available from:
http://www.utoledo.edu/policies/utmc/administrative/pdfs/3364-100-50-44.pdf