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
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/