

<b>Section:</b> UTMB On-line Documentation	<b>01.33 - Policy</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	<b>2/20/2025-Revised</b>
<b>Topic:</b> 01.33 - Use of Thermometers	<b>1979 - Author</b>

## 01.33 - Use of Thermometers

<b>Purpose</b>	To define measures to prevent the spread of infection through use of patient thermometers and to define the guidelines for the safe use and care of thermometers.
<b>Audience</b>	All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, contract workers, volunteers, and students.
<b>Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic thermometers may be used for all patients, including those in isolation.</li> <li>• The thermometer shall not be placed on the patient's bedside table or any potentially contaminated surface in the patient's room.</li> <li>• The thermometer or any other part shall be disinfected with 70-90% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol if it has had contact with a contaminated surface, such as a bedside table, and before each and after each use.</li> <li>• Thermometers may be cleaned using soap and cool tap water and drying with a paper towel at the sink in the patient's room before and after each use.</li> <li>• Thermometers that are shared between patients will have a disposable protective cover.</li> </ul>
<b>References</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Rutala, Weber, and the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC). <a href="#">Disinfection and Sterilization Guideline   Infection Control   CDC</a></u></li> </ol>