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| <b>Section: UTMB On-line Documentation</b>                      | <b>01.33 - Policy</b>     |
| <b>Subject: Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures</b> | <b>11.19.10 - Revised</b> |
| <b>Topic: Use of Thermometers</b>                               | <b>1979 - Author</b>      |

## 01.33 Use of Thermometers

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| Purpose    | 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.   |
| Audience   | All employees of UTMB hospitals, clinics, Victory Lakes outpatient specialty care and surgical center, contract workers, volunteers, and students   |
| Policy     | <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>• Thermometers that are shared between patients will have a disposable protective cover. The thermometer or any other part shall be cleaned with 70-90% isopropyl alcohol if it has had contact with a contaminated surface, such as a bedside table.</li> <li>• The thermometer 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>• Alternatively, it may be disinfected before each use by washing (as described) followed by drying and wiping with a 70-90% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol pad/solution.</li> </ul> |
| References | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Infection Control Manual</u>, Texas Hospital Association, 1979. Safety Manual, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas.</li> </ol>   |