

Section: UTMB On-line Documentation	01.33 - Policy
Subject: Infection Control & Healthcare Epidemiology Policies and Procedures	7.12.18 - Revised
Topic: 01.33 - Use of Thermometers	1979 - Author

01.33 - Use of Thermometers

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, contract workers, volunteers, and students.
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic thermometers may be used for all patients, including those in isolation. • The thermometer shall not be placed on the patient's bedside table or any potentially contaminated surface in the patient's room. • 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. • 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. • 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.
References	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.