

Crosstown Clinic: Medication Fridge Downtime

Site Applicability

Crosstown Clinic

Practice Level

Nursing

Policy

- The medication refrigerator temperature must be maintained within the temperature range of 2°C and 8°C.
- Refrigerators (externally, internally or remotely temperature monitored) must have the temperature documented on the daily temperature log twice a day when the fridge contains vaccines. If there are no vaccines, then the temperature must be monitored and documented once a day. The daily temperature logs must be retained on the unit for 3 years when the fridge contains vaccines.

Need to Know:

Crosstown nurses are responsible for monitoring medication fridge temperatures and/or responding to temperature alarms or power failures.

Procedure

Known Power Outages

- If the power is expected to be restored within four hours or less, keep the vaccines in the refrigerator and keep the doors closed.
- Place a sign on the refrigerator door instructing people to not open the door.
- Continue to monitor and record refrigerator temperatures every 30 minutes for the duration of the outage.
- If the power outage is expected to be longer than four hours, or if the temperature is going out of range quickly, move the vaccines to a cooler with ice packs and insulating material. Ice packs are stored in the freezer component of the specimen fridge. The cooler is stored in the basement vault, across from the specimen fridge. Take the vaccines to a facility that has

functioning monitored refrigerator (e.g. Crosstown's pharmacy fridge, Pender Clinic at 59 West Pender (604-669-9181), Three Bridges at 1128 Hornby (604-331-8900))

Unknown Power Outages

- In the event of an unknown power outage (i.e. staff open the clinic to find there is no power) follow the BC Centre for Disease Control Cold Chain protocol. (see <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/vaccine-management>)
- Complete the Cold Chain Incident form. (see [Related Resources](#))
- Inform Clinic Coordinator or Patient Care Manager

Daily Monitoring of the Temperature inside the Medication Fridge

'Externally' monitored Refrigerator

1. Using the Daily Medication Refrigerator Temperature Log (form PHC-PH442):
2. At the same time every day, or when vaccines are in the refrigerator, twice a day, record the following :
 - a. current date and time
 - b. current temperature reading
 - c. minimum temperature reading
 - d. maximum temperature reading
 - e. initials
3. Once the above items have been manually recorded, clear both the minimum and maximum temperature memory.

Medication cold storage When Temperature out of Range:

Refer to BCCDC Cold Chain protocol for direction when the temperature is or has been out of the range of 2°C and 8°C in the past 24 hours.

Procedure for when a refrigerator/ requires repair or replacement

TECHNOTERM Integrated Services Ltd is the company that services the fridge. General maintenance and calibration is done annually in July. The coordinator will work with Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services to arrange for this.

If the refrigerator cannot be repaired:

1. The Coordinator will notify the Patient Care Manager.
2. The Patient Care Manager will order an approved replacement refrigerator in consultation with Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services and the Practice Consultant, Medication Management.

Related Documents

1. BCCDC Cold Chain Incident form – found at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/professional-resources/vaccine-pharmacy-services>
2. [B-00-12-10006](#) - Temperature Monitoring of Medication Cold Storage

References

British Columbia Center for Disease Control (2015). Communicable Disease Control Manual Retrieved from http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Epid/CD%20Manual/Chapter%20-%20Imms/Appendix_E_ManagementBiologicals.pdf

BCCD Cold Chain Management <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/vaccine-management>

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