

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure		
Refrigerated Drug Storage		
Effective: September 2014	Revised: September 2024	Due for Review: September 2026

POLICY

To assure that medications requiring refrigeration/freezer are stored appropriately. All refrigerated drug storage areas that contain medications at Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) are monitored for temperature range to ensure compliance with drug storage standards.

DEFINITIONS

- Refrigerator temperature range: 2.2 degrees C (36 deg F) and 7.7 degrees C (46 deg F)
- Room temperature range: 15 degrees C (59 degrees F) to 30 degrees C (86 degrees F)
- Freezer temperature range: -10 degrees C (14 degrees F) to -30 degrees C (-22 degrees F)

PROCEDURE

There will be no refrigerators on the Nursing Units that contain medications.

There are no medications stored within VPCH that require frozen storage.

All the refrigerated medications will be stored and monitored within the pharmacy.

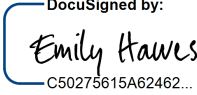
The medication refrigerator temperatures are checked during regular business hours. It is recorded and continual records kept. Pharmacy will use a Datalogging Traceable Thermometer system to capture data outside of normal operating hours. All documentation will be kept for 3years.

Any temperatures outside the correct temperature range will result in the medications to be quarantined and not available for individual use. Investigation into the manufacturer’s guidelines will occur and Pharmacy will proceed with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Pharmacy will investigate the physical cause of the temperature fluctuations – and that will be remedied immediately.

Pharmacy’s Medication Refrigerator units will be inspected during monthly pharmacy inspections and will be cleaned (including vacuuming of the ventilation system) and defrosted as deemed necessary.

References

Joint Commission M.M.03.01.01

Approved by	Signature	Date
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	9/25/2024