

Warmed Intravenous Fluids

Supersedes:

Effective: 04-06-09

PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure the proper rotation and use of warmed intravenous fluids in the treatment of hypothermic patients. Manufacturer recommendations dictate that intravenous fluids stay in an IV Fluid warmer for no more than two weeks to prevent chemical leaching into the solution.

PROCEDURE

1. Intravenous fluids shall remain stored in their original protective packaging until use.
2. When an intravenous fluid is placed in a Department issued warmer, the “IN” date and projected “OUT” date (14 days after the fluid is first entered into the warmer) shall be noted in a conspicuous location on the bag. This may be accomplished with tape or by affixing a drug label available at Materials and Facility Management.
3. Intravenous fluids may remain in a warmer for a maximum of **14 days**. If the warmed fluid has not been used within that time, it shall be removed from the warmer and returned to the shelf stock, so long as it is not otherwise expired.
 - 3.1. If an intravenous bag is found to be in a warmer without an “IN/OUT” notation on the bag, it should be assumed that it has been in the warmer for 14 days. It should be removed from the warmer, a label affixed noting that it has already been warmed, and may be returned to the stock shelf so long as it is not otherwise expired.