



NON-HOSPITAL MEDICAL AND SURGICAL FACILITIES  
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

# Accreditation Standards

Fluid and Blanket Warming

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# Accreditation Standards

## Fluid and Blanket Warming

### INTRODUCTION

Patient injury can result from fluids and blankets being warmed to high temperature and the risk of burns is increased in the perioperative setting because patients under anesthesia cannot feel an increase in temperature and may not be able to communicate discomfort.

#### WARM1.0 FLUID WARMING

<b>WARM1.1</b>	<b>Fluids are appropriately warmed to ensure patient safety.</b>
WARM1.1.1	<p><b>M</b> Fluids are warmed using an appropriate warming cabinet.  <i>Guidance: Intravenous, irrigation and preparation fluids may be warmed in an appropriate warming cabinet. Fluids are to be warmed in a separate warming cabinet from blankets (e.g. a single cabinet warmer that is dedicated for fluid warming only or a cabinet with two separate compartments where each compartment has its own independent temperature control). <b>Microwave ovens, water baths or any other device that is not validated by the manufacturer as a medical fluid warming device is not to be used for warming solutions.</b> Fluids are not to be warmed to the same temperature as blankets because fluids attain a higher temperature and retain that temperature longer. Warming cabinets may not be located in an operating/procedure room.</i></p>
WARM1.1.2	<p><b>M</b> Fluids are warmed according to manufacturer's instructions for use.  <i>Guidance: Documentation on file from the fluid manufacturer specifies the maximum temperature setting, the length of time fluids may remain in the warming cabinet and usability of the fluid if it has reached the maximum length of time the fluid may remain in the warming cabinet. IV bags are warmed in their plastic over-pouches/outer-wrap. Fluid warming cabinet temperature should be set as recommended by the fluid manufacturer instructions for use (MIFU) but no higher than 43°C/110°F. If there is more than one type of fluid in the warming cabinet (e.g. IV bags and solution bottles, IV bags from different manufacturers) and the fluid MIFU's specify different warming temperatures, the fluid warming cabinet temperature is set to the lowest maximum temperature but no higher than 43°C/110°F.</i></p>
WARM1.1.3	<p><b>M</b> The temperature of the fluid warming cabinet is documented.  <i>Guidance: Warming cabinets should be labeled to identify the items that may be placed in them and the maximum temperature setting. A log is kept to record the temperature of the fluid warming cabinet or compartment. At minimum, the temperature is recorded each surgical/procedural day.</i></p>

WARM1.1.4	<p><b>M</b> Fluids are dated when placed in the warming cabinet.  <i>Guidance: Manufacturer's instructions for fluid warming are followed. Fluids are labelled when placed in the warming cabinet. The label includes the date the fluid was placed in the warming cabinet and the date the fluid is to be removed from the warming cabinet (i.e. maximum warming time period has been reached). Contents of the warming cabinet should be rotated on a first-in first-out basis. Fluids removed from the warming cabinet are not returned to the warmer if not used; <b>fluids may only be warmed once</b>. Depending on the MIFU, previously warmed fluids may or may not be used. If the MIFU advises previously warmed fluids may be used, they are labeled as having been previously warmed and, if the manufacturer's labeled expiration date is no longer valid, the label includes a revised expiry date in accordance with the MIFU.</i></p>
<p><b>WARM1.2 Blankets and linens are appropriately warmed to ensure patient safety.</b></p>	
WARM1.2.1	<p><b>M</b> Blankets and linens are warmed using an appropriate warming cabinet.  <i>Guidance: Blanket and linens may be warmed in an appropriate warming cabinet. Blankets and linens are to be warmed in a separate warming cabinet from fluids (e.g. a single cabinet warmer that is dedicated for blanket and linen warming only or a cabinet with two separate compartments where each compartment has its own independent temperature control). Warming cabinets may not be located in an operating/procedure room.</i></p>
WARM1.2.2	<p><b>M</b> The temperature of the blanket and linen warming cabinet is documented.  <i>Guidance: Warming cabinets should be labeled to identify the items that may be placed in them and the maximum temperature setting. Blanket warming cabinet temperature is set no higher than 54.4°C/130°F. A log is kept to record the temperature of the blanket and linen warming cabinet or compartment. At minimum, the temperature is recorded each surgical/procedural day.</i></p>
<p><b>WARM1.3 Policies and procedures contain all of the information necessary for the safety of patients, staff and visitors.</b>  <i>Intent: Policies and procedures ensure that activities/procedures are performed consistently and accurately by all personnel within the non-hospital facility.</i></p>	
1.3.1	<p><b>M</b> There is policy and procedures for the warming of fluids and blankets  <i>Guidance: Policy and procedures outline the safe and appropriate warming of fluids and blankets including use of an appropriate warming cabinet, maximum temperature settings, manufacturer's instructions for fluid warming (e.g. maximum length of time, expiry dates) and labeling.</i></p>



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## REFERENCES

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