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| **SUBJECT/TITLE:** | Monitoring of Temperature, Relative Humidity and Pressure in Critical Environment Rooms. |
| **PURPOSE:** | The University of Iowa Hospital & Clinics Engineering Services Department supports and participates in the infection control plan. This is achieved by maintaining information regarding temperature, relative humidity and differential pressure in designated critical environment areas and rooms.  |
| **POLICY:** | It is the policy of the Engineering Services Department to follow, as approved by the Environment of Care Committee (EOCC), the 2010 Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI), ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008 Ventilation of Health Care Facilities. Monitoring is performed in critical environments as a result of a risk assessment wherever variations in temperature, humidity and pressure may impact clinical outcomes including invasive locations. The actual monitoring is performed by Engineering Services building automation and monitoring systems. |

A. PROCEDURE:

1. The temperature, relative humidity and in designated areas, pressures are monitored and logged daily for all Operating rooms. This is the responsibility of the Operating Room Assistant or designee. The following designated rooms per areas are monitored:

1. Operating Rooms & Sterile Cores
2. Central Sterile Supplies
3. Sterile Supply and Equipment Storage Rooms
4. Sterile Processing Clean Areas
5. Sterile Processing Decontamination Areas
6. Scope Processing Areas
7. High Level Disinfection Areas
8. Cath Labs
9. Endoscopy Procedure Rooms
10. IVF Procedure Room
11. Interventional Radiology Rooms
12. Designated Procedure Rooms
13. ETC Trauma Rooms
14. Designated pharmacy areas
15. Bronchoscopy Procedure Rooms

2. Temperature and humidity levels are monitored within the range based on the approved 2010 Facility Guidelines Institute (FGI), ANSI/ASHRAE/ASHE Standard 170-2008 Ventilation of Health Care Facilities. The range of notification for out of range approved by the EOCC is determined by a risk assessment (attached). Operating Room surgeons at their discretion are allowed for flexibility beyond the ASHRAE range.

3. UIHC leadership has approved the categorical waiver to allow relative humidity as low as 20% in anesthetizing locations. If the relative humidity is below 20% or above 70% for the specified period of time on the risk assessment, the responsible monitoring individual of the area will notify Engineering Services of the environmental condition or the Engineering Services building systems will notify a designee of the area. Engineering Services will respond immediately to intervene and attempt to bring the HVAC system into compliance. If unsuccessful in maintaining these parameters continuously for more than 8 hours within any 24 hour period, epidemiology will be notified in order to define necessary actions, if deemed necessary.

4. Isolation Room pressures are checked monthly by the Engineering Services. The pressures are verified manually and through the building automation system. In the case of non-compliance readings, Engineering Services will immediately place the room out of service and notify the clinical team. Immediate and appropriate corrections will be completed by Engineering Services.

Source: UI Healthcare Engineering Services

Date effective: July, 2016

Date Reviewed: July 6, 2016