



PSYCHIATRIC HEALTH FACILITY POLICY AND PROCEDURES

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
ALCOHOL, DRUG AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Section - NURSING - MEDICATIONS

Effective: 4/6/2011

Policy- REFRIGERATION STORAGE OF MEDICATIONS

Revised: 3/29/2011

PHF CEO's Approval _____ **Date:** _____

Executive Medical Staff Chair's Approval _____ **Date:** _____

Committee Chair's Approval _____ **Date:** _____

Form Ref. NM 2.1

POLICY:

A refrigerator will be housed in the Medication Room for the storage of medications. The temperature of the refrigerator will be maintained between 2.2 degrees C (36 degrees F) and 7.7 degrees C (46 degrees F).

PROCEDURE:

- A. The refrigerator will be cleaned monthly by the evening/night shift.
- B. The temperature of the medication refrigerator will be checked *twice* daily and a log maintained of daily temperatures noted. The log will be kept in the Narcotic Control binder and checked twice daily at the time of the narcotic count. The refrigerator temperature shall be between 2.2 degrees C (36 degrees F) and 7.7 degrees C (46 degrees F). (see attachment A -)
- C. If the temperature is not within the required range, the temperature is to be adjusted using the temperature control knob located in the refrigerator – adjust up or down and re-check the temperature until within the required temperature range.
- D. If it is determined that the refrigerator has been outside of the allowed range of 36 degrees F and 46 degrees F for more than 2 hours nursing staff are to call the pharmacy to determine what actions are required with regards to the refrigerated medications. Staff will utilize a refrigerated storage area until refrigerator is repaired and operating within range. Note: medications need to be stored separately from any food and in a labeled container.