

Thermometers

The frequent use of thermometers in patient care necessitates that all patient care delivery personnel understand the proper use thereof.

Thermometers

- Types
 - Electronic
 - Standard glass capillary tube which contains alcohol or mercury which expands or contracts for measurement of temperature.
- Use of electronic IVAC Probe covers and thermometers
 - Remove probe from its stored position in face of thermometer
 - Push probe firmly into probe cover
 - Insert probe slowly taking 4 to 7 seconds
 - Oral-base of tongue along gum line lingual area
 - Rectal-insertion depth should be in accordance with Nursing Procedure Manual
 - Hold probe in place until audible signal is heard and red light comes on. Record temperature.
 - Discard probe cover by pressing the top of the probe with thumb.
 - Return probe to its stored position in face of thermometer canceling temperature reading.
 - Store thermometer in charger when not in use. Charge light must be on while thermometer is being charged.
 - Aseptic technique demands the use of each cover only once.
- Use of glass thermometers: Red tip-rectal, White or Blue tip-oral. (Color coding may not indicate use, you must read the labeling).
 - Before utilizing the glass shell thermometers, insure the patient's age and mental status is such that it can be used with safety—without hazard of breakage in body tissue.
 - These thermometers will not be washed or stored together.
 - After use, thermometers are washed in warm water with disinfectant soap, rinsed well and stored in ethyl or isopropyl alcohol 70-90% containing 0.2% iodine (order from pharmacy).
 - Disinfection requires 15 minutes in the above solution.
 - Personnel using one time disposable thermometer sheaths shall insure the thermometer has not been contaminated with oral secretions. If contaminated, the thermometer shall be disinfected in accordance with above steps.