POLICY STATEMENT
For patient safety, and to increase compliance with environment of care standards, outside food and drink should not be allowed in patient care areas within the Intensive Care Units (ICUs). Food and drink brought from outside the medical center and stored in a patient’s room on a general inpatient unit should be done in a manner preventing the attraction of pests. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends well developed pest control strategies in high risk areas and areas prone to infestation, as infestation can be linked to infection. The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) recommends educating staff, patients, and visitors about not keeping food in drawers/closets of patient rooms to prevent pest related disease/infection.

AFFECTED STAKEHOLDERS
Indicate all entities and persons within the Enterprise that are affected by this policy:
☒ Administrative Services
☒ Hired Staff
☒ Housestaff/Residents & Clinical Fellows
☒ Leased staff
☒ Medical Staff (includes Physicians, PAs, APNs)
☒ Patient Care Services (Nursing, PCT’s, Unit Clerks)
☒ Professional Services (Laboratory, Radiology, Respiratory, Pharmacy; etc.)
☒ Vendors/Contractors
☐ Other:

DEFINITIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Infestation</td>
<td>To inhabit or overrun in numbers or quantities large enough to be harmful, threatening, or obnoxious.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perishable</td>
<td>Anything, especially food stuff that is subject to decay or spoilage. Most food items have a limited shelf life when not refrigerated.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pestilence</td>
<td>Widespread infestation of insects or rodents that may contribute to or be associated with disease.</td>
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PROCESS & PROCEDURES

- Staff food is allowed in designated break areas only.
- When available, the designated break areas will be the staff lounge.
- Designated areas will be assigned in collaboration with the unit/department manager and Hospital Epidemiology in the absence of a formal staff lounge.
- Storage of perishables by staff in designated areas should be in a rigid, airtight container.
- Staff beverages only may be allowed in workrooms and conference rooms where biohazardous materials and patient care supplies are prohibited. It is recommended that drinks be covered.
- ICUs and inpatient units which have family designated kitchenettes should be routinely maintained to prevent pestilence. Routine maintenance should include regular waste disposal, routine environmental hygiene, and pest control.
- Family members of patients should not bring food or drink while visiting in the Intensive Care Unit. Family members may utilize the kitchenette located in the family waiting room to store food items. These items should be stored and labeled in a rigid, airtight container. The label should include name and date food is stored.
- Family members of patients who bring food or drink while visiting a patient in a general unit should consume the products immediately when possible. Foods requiring refrigeration should be stored following refrigerator policy. All other perishable food should be stored in airtight containers.
- Current pest control practices include (but are not limited to)
  - Environment of care rounds
  - Routine treatment with pesticides
  - Additional treatment with pesticides as needed
  - Elimination of external shipping boxes for storage
  - Elimination of internal corrugated boxes for storage when feasible.
  - Containment
    - In the event that a patient present with an identified infestation on their person and/or belongings, their belongings including the clothes they are wearing, must be double bagged and sealed tight. Either a clean patient gown or disposable scrubs will be provided for the patient. Facilities will be immediately notified to mitigate the spread of the infestation.
- Education
  - Patients/families are educated about the risk of pestilence upon admission to the ICU/unit.
  - Staff is educated during general orientation and annually.
REFERENCES, SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS, AND TOOLS


RELATED POLICIES
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APPROVED BY
Chief Executive Officer, AU Medical Center Date: 06/06/2016