

The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Ice-Making Machines Policy- Not for Human Consumption

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Date Ratified:	TBC
Ratified By:	Infection Prevention and Control Committee/ Water Safety Group

1 Introduction

The microbiological quality of water from an ice making machine may be of a poor standard, thereby posing a risk to patients, particularly immunocompromised patients. The water and Ice in the machines is not sterile.

2 Scope

The Trust expects all staff and/or sub-contractors working on behalf of the Trust to comply with the principles contained within this policy. The scope of the policy is to provide guidance to all healthcare professions who care for patients at department and ward level.

3 Aims

The policy provides guidance for the installation, use, cleaning, maintenance and monitoring of ice making machines within the trust.

4 Duties (Roles and responsibilities)

All healthcare workers and/or sub-contractors working on behalf of the Trust have a responsibility to ensure that they are compliant with this policy. Clinical Directors and Matrons, with the support of the DIPC and IPC team, will ensure that this policy is applied to.

5 Definitions

- IPCT – Infection Prevention and Control Team
- DIPC – Director of Infection Prevention and Control
- WSG – Water Safety Group
- IPCC – Infection Prevention and Control Committee
- SSD – Sterile Services Department
- IT – Information Technology
- PAT Testing- Portable Appliance Testing (Electrical Safety)

Other Definitions are given throughout this policy

6. Ice-making machines

These machines are used to supply ice for the following purposes;

- Cooling specimens such as blood samples collected for blood gases
- Ice Packs

Ice obtained from ice-making machines has been shown to be of poor microbiological quality. Consequently ice from these machines **must not be consumed** and each machine must display a prominent notice stating “**Not for human consumption**”

Where ice is required for consumption, to cool drinks, water from a plumbed in water cooler must be used to make the ice. Ice from the freezer department of a domestic refrigerator may be given to patients who otherwise would safely consume mains tap water. An alternative would be the use of ice cube bags from commercial suppliers which are disposable after use.

Ice from either of these sources must not be given to patients who would normally be given/instructed to drink sterile water.

6.1 Requests for new ice makers

All such requests must be discussed with both the IPCT and the Estates Department before an order is placed.

6.2 Cleaning of ice machines

It is the responsibility of the Ward Manager or Head of Department to ensure that the ice compartment of a domestic refrigerator / freezer, and ice-making machines are kept clean. It is recommended that the ice tray of a domestic refrigerator is washed a minimum of once weekly with hot water and detergent. Cleaning schedules should be documented and records maintained.

For dedicated ice-making machines, ice must not be removed or handled by the hands of the user. A dedicated ice scoop must be provided for all machines. The scoop should be washed with detergent and hot water daily and dried thoroughly. Cleaning schedules should be documented and records maintained. This is the responsibility of the Ward Manager.

The ice storage compartments of both domestic refrigerator/freezer and/or dedicated ice-making machines must be cleaned by the department staff once a week.

The weekly cleaning process should be:

Isolate the appliance electrically.

Remove ice from ice storage bin, discarding in nearest sink (not to be disposed of in wash hand basin).

Using Actichlor solution of 1,000ppm concentration? Thoroughly clean the inside of the ice holding chamber.

Using single use bottle brush dipped in Actichlor solution of 1,000ppm clean the chamber drain.

Reinstate electrical supply

The ice storage compartments of both domestic refrigerator/freezer and/or dedicated ice-making machines must be maintained by the Estates Department or a sub-contractor on behalf of the Estates Department at quarterly intervals. The maintenance should be in line with the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines. The flexible hose and filter that supply the machine should be changed on the annual service.

7 Training

Upon the installation of a water cooler or an ice-maker in a patient or ward it is the responsibility of the Ward Manger or Head of Department to ensure they arrange the appropriate education and training for the use, weekly cleaning and maintenance of the machine in compliance with the manufacturer's instructions and guidelines.

8 Equality and diversity

The Trust is committed to ensuring that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the way we provide services to the public and the way we treat our staff reflects their individual needs and does not discriminate against individuals or groups on any grounds. This policy has been appropriately assessed.

9 Monitoring and Compliance

Standard/ process/ issue	Monitoring and audit			
	Method	By	Committee	Frequency
Maintenance and cleaning of machines	As implemented by Estates, Ward Managers and Hotel Services	Estates, Ward Managers and Hotel Services	IPCC	Three yearly or as required.

10 Consultation and review

This policy has been reviewed by members of the Infection Prevention and Control Team, Estates and the Water safety Group. It will be reviewed every three years or when significant changes make an earlier review necessary. Comments, queries and suggestions should be forwarded to the IPCT.

11 Implementation (including raising awareness)

Matrons/Sisters/Charge Nurses and Clinical Leads should ensure that staff are aware of this policy. This policy is available for staff to access via NUTH Intranet. Estates officer's responsible for the maintenance of the ice-making machines must also be made aware of the policy and ensure any sub-contractor carrying out work on behalf of the trust adhere to the policy.

12 References

Approved Code of Practice L8 – The Control of *Legionella* bacteria in Water Systems
 (2001) Health & Safety Executive
 Health Building Memorandum (HBM) 04-01B: Water Systems: The Control of Legionella, Hygiene, "Safe" Hot Water, cold Water and Drinking Water Systems.
 Part
 A: Design, Installation and Testing. Part B: Operational Management.

13 Associated documentation

[Manufacturer's Instructions for quarterly cleaning: Scottsman](#)