

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: MICROWAVE OVENS

POLICY NO. 473B

PURPOSE:

To minimize fire hazards related to the use of microwave ovens at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center.

POLICY:

To ensure that all incoming microwave ovens are properly tested for safety, inventoried and tagged by Facilities Management before being put into use.

PROCEDURE:

- a. All microwave ovens must have an equipment acceptance sticker and barcode affixed by Facilities Management to the device prior to use.
- b. In the event of a microwave oven related fire, the microwave oven will be inspected immediately by Facilities Management and removed from service if deemed unsafe. If Facilities Management is not readily available to inspect the oven, the device will be removed from service. The microwave oven will be returned to service when cleared for use by Facilities Management.
- c. Microwave ovens will be allowed in employee break areas with the approval of the individual supervisors/managers.
- d. Contact Facilities Management at (424) 306-8501 to request an electronic safety check inspection. This inspection should include a check of the integrity of the microwave oven door seal.
- e. Microwave ovens not approved for use must be removed immediately.
- f. All departments must maintain a microwave cleaning log schedule.

SAFETY INFORMATION:

It is important for all Harbor-UCLA Medical Center staff, to be aware of the following safety warnings associated with the use of microwave ovens:

- a. Microwave ovens distribute heat unevenly, (e.g., a heated container may feel warm on the outside but the internal temperature may be hot).
- b. Microwave energy is dependent on the wattage of the microwave, (e.g., a HIGH temperature setting on one model of microwave oven may differ from a HIGH setting on another).

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/09

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 3/13, 10/19

REVIEWED: 3/13, 11/16, 10/19

REVIEW COMMITTEE:


APPROVED BY:



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- c. Microwave energy may alter consistency of the heated product.
- d. Regular microwave ovens do not have a calibrated thermometer to measure the temperature of the heated fluid/material.
- e. Regular microwave ovens have unlimited heating time that exposes the operator to errors, (e.g., instead of 2 seconds, the operator may accidentally program 20 seconds, or 20 minutes).
- f. To avoid grease related microwave oven fires microwave ovens should be kept clean. Users of the microwave oven are responsible for maintaining/cleaning of the oven.
- g. Staff shall not leave the microwave oven unattended when in use.

Microwave ovens are not to be used for patient care.

Do NOT heat the following patient care items in a microwave oven:

- a. Blood and blood products
- b. Intravenous fluids or solutions
- c. Breast milk or infant formula
- d. Warming or bath packs
- e. Warming patient's food

REFERENCE:

DHS Risk Management Bulletin #02-1 (Patient Safety: Utilizing Microwave Ovens in the Patient Care Setting)