

# Policy

<b>CCHMC Infection Control &amp; Prevention Program</b>	<i>Policy Number</i>	IC 3.9
Infection Control Assessments Drinks in Clinical Areas	<i>Effective Date</i>	11/15/2023
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## 1.0 PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this policy is to provide prescriptive guidance in accordance with Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), regarding the professional practice of permitting employee drinks in clinical areas. Support and/or questions regarding this policy can be emailed to [Drinks@cchmc.org](mailto:Drinks@cchmc.org) or sent to your IC, OSEH and regulatory partner directly.

## 2.0 POLICY

2.1 The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Bloodborne Pathogen Standard prohibits the consumption of food and drinks in areas in which work involving exposure or potential exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material takes place, or where the potential for contamination of work surfaces exists [29 CFR 1910.1030(d)(2)(ix)]. Also, under 29 CFR 1910.141(g)(2), employees shall not be allowed to consume food or beverages in any area exposed to toxic materials.

2.1.1 According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogens (29CFR1910.1030) and Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories (29CFR1910.1450) Standards, employers should prohibit eating, drinking, smoking, applying cosmetics or lip balm and handling contact lenses in work areas where there is reasonable likelihood of occupational exposure to blood, body fluids or hazardous chemicals. Cincinnati Childrens Infection Control (IC) Policy 1.4 section 4.7 states, Employee food and drink should not be stored or consumed in an area where patient supplies are stored. Appropriate Infection Control (IC) practices should ensure the hospital environment of care remains clean, professional, and fit for patient care. Excluding drinks from areas identified as high risk that have potential for attracting pests or compromising equipment or patient supplies supports this objective.

2.1.2: Drinks in clinical areas are optional; adoption of this practice must be endorsed by designated unit/site leadership. Drinks in clinical areas are recommended in circumstances where reasonable accommodations are not available to employees due to the environment of care spatial infrastructure. Reasonable proximity usually includes a breakroom and/or conference room within 6-10 ft of the main working station. Failure to comply with this policy and/or compromise to [1] patient care, [2] patient/employee safety and [3] the environment of care is a violation of the drink policy. Refusal to comply with the articles of this policy may be escalated to unit/site leadership as well as to the Directors of IP&C, ARA, and OSEH. Repeated safety concerns may result in suspension of drinks in identified clinical areas to preserve patient and staff safety.

## 3.0 IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 Drinks are permitted in approved clinical areas as designated by the Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) program in accordance with OSHA guidelines and regulations. Appropriate drink stations must be endorsed by IP&C, OSEH, Regulatory & Accreditation or your Operational Manager/Director. Food of any kind is **not** permitted in clinical areas and should be consumed in a breakroom, office, or designated conference room.

3.1.1 Drinks are permitted in certain clinical areas in drink stations or trays. These areas have been identified as low risk for cross- contamination of blood, body, and hazardous chemicals.

- Employees are responsible for maintenance of their drink cups
- The designated clean drinking space should remain free of clinical equipment, clinical supplies, and patient specimens.
  - a. If specimens are unintentionally placed near or on designated drink stations, the affected surface should be immediately decontaminated using a hospital-approved disinfectant and the drink contents should be discarded.
- Drink stations should always remain free of spills, dirt, and debris.
  - a. Staff members are responsible for the cleanliness of their unit drink tray.

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3.1.2 Drinks are permitted under the stipulations below. Drinks must be covered (e.g., drink cup, with lid, bottle with top)

- Drinks must be in a spill-proof cup.
  - a. No cups with openings
  - b. No freestanding straws
  - c. No straw covers
  - d. No metal canned drinks. They must be in a spill proof cup
- Drinks must remain in designated drinking stations.
- Cups should be removed by employees at the end of their shift.
- Patient care items are prohibited within 3ft of designated drink locations.
- Drinks that do not adhere to the policy (including not being removed at end of shift) may be discarded without notification to the staff member.

**Please note, acceptability and compliance are variable based on the environment of care, changes to this policy are at the discretion of Infection Prevention & Control without notice.**

## 4.0 REFERENCE CHART: EMPLOYEE DRINKS

Location	Drinks Permitted
Clean Utility/Storage Spaces	No
Conference Rooms	Yes
Consult Rooms (Staff)	Yes
Consult Rooms (Patient Care)	No
Delivery Carts (Patient Carts)	No
Equipment Room (Clinical & IS Closets)	No
Food Service Carts	No
Formula Prep Room	No
Gym (Therapy OT/PT/Therapy Clinical Spaces)	No
Housekeeping Carts	No
Human Milk Storage Spaces	No
Inpatient Bedroom	No
Laboratories (chemical/biological/POC)	No
<b>Location G</b>	
• Designated drink tray in workstations	Yes
• Alcove	No
• HUC Station *Designated Tray	Yes
<b>ED Location G</b>	
• ED Huddle Room	Yes
• ED Workstation	Yes
• Registration	No
<i>Refer to chart for other designated areas</i>	
Materials Management/Storeroom	No
Medication Room	No
Nurses Station *Designated spaces approved by IC only	Yes
Offices (Non-Clinical)	Yes
Operating Room (OR)	No
Pantry/Family Kitchen/ Kitchenette	No

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Pharmacy	No
Playroom (Patients)	No
Procedure Room/ Procedure Center/ Procedure Spaces	No
Public Congregation Areas-Cafeteria, Lobbies, Seacrest Studios	Yes
Radiology (Patient Facing)	No
Radiology (Non-Patient Facing, no supplies)	Yes
Restrooms	No
Registration Areas *Designated spaces, covered only, please consult IC for approval	Yes
Soiled Utility/ Soiled Workroom/ Soiled Holding	No
Staff Lounge	Yes
Supply Room	No
Therapy Locations (Patient Care)	No
Treatment Room	No
Triage Room	No
Waste Storage Room	No
Workstation on Wheels	No

## 5.0 REFERENCES

Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 29 CFR 1910.141(g)(2), 2023

Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 29CFR1910.1450), (29CFR1910.1030), 2023

CHA Benchmark Resources: Boston Children's Hospital, Nationwide Children's Hospital, Akron Children's Hospital, Phoenix Children's Hospital

IC Policy 1.4 Storage of Clean and Sterile Patient Equipment and Supplies

REVISION HISTORY	
<b>Original Date</b>	
11/15/2023	
<b>Revision Date</b>	