

Monitoring Refrigerators Used to Store Perishable PoCT Consumables Procedure



Purpose

The purpose of this document is to describe the procedure used to monitor and manage refrigerators used in the storage of Point of Care Testing consumable requiring “cold chain” compliance.

Scope

This document is intended to be used by POCT testing facilities within NSW Health.

Definitions

PoCT - Point of Care Testing

Policy

This procedure must be followed in order to guarantee consumable used in Point of Care testing are fit for purpose at the time of use.

Equipment

Refrigerator capable of maintaining a temperature in the range 2-8°C.

Certified maximum/minimum thermometer.

Log sheet for recording daily maximum and minimum temperatures and actions taken to out-of-range recordings.

Procedure

1. Once per day at approximately the same time each day, record on your log sheet the maximum and minimum temperatures as displayed on the thermometer and initial. If the refrigerator is used to store other perishables such as vaccination medication which require more frequent monitoring, compliance with those requirements must be considered.
2. If the displayed minimum is less than 2°C or the maximum temperature is greater than 8°C investigate the cause and record any actions taken. If it is felt the contents of the refrigerator have been compromised during this period contact your PoCT Hub Coordinator.
3. Reset the thermometer to initiate a fresh recording period.
4. At the completion of each month please fax or scan and email the temperature log sheet to you PoCT Hub Coordinator.