



National Patient Safety Foundation listserv Q&A

Edited for brevity

Re: Refrigerators in physician offices

How are physician office practices addressing & managing refrigerators that store medications/vaccines that are not on emergency generator back up power? How would you know if there was a power outage that occurred over a weekend or off hours?

Hospital owned physician offices must comply with all appropriate Joint Commission Standards. The standard that addresses this question is EC.6.10 - implement processes to maintain and monitor equipment performance. Their refrigerators have thermometers that have alarms for out of range. Office personnel can check the alarm memory to determine if the temp was out of range overnight and over the weekend. This check is documented on a log.