**Ice Machines and Resident Room Cups/Mugs**

**Date Implemented:**

**Review/Updated Date:**

**Policy**

Sanitation when utilizing an automatic ice machine is critical to maintaining infection control. Organizations must develop procedures including obtaining ice from the machine, appropriate sanitation measures for scoops, and cleaning of the machine.

Hydration is a very important health measure for residents in long-term care settings as it aides with prevention of infections such as urinary tract infections. When residents are provided water and/or other beverages in their rooms, staff must ensure that sanitation measures are adhered to in order to prevent food borne illness.

**Procedures**

**Obtaining ice from the ice machine:**

* Staff must ensure hand hygiene is completed.
* Open the lid to the ice machine utilizing the appropriate handles or lifting devices on the ice machine. Ensure hands are not touching the inside of the lid on the ice machine to prevent contamination.
* Don gloves.
* Utilizing a scoop obtain ice needed to complete task.
* Return scoop to an enclosed container to prevent contamination. Ice scoops must never be stored in the ice machine, unless the ice machine has a set up for this where the ice scoop is not contaminating the ice, particularly the handle.
* Close the lid and doff gloves.

**Sanitation of the ice machine:**

* The ice machine must be cleaned and sanitized per manufacturer’s recommendations.
* Audits of the ice machine via visual inspection must be completed periodically to ensure the baffles are clean and free of buildup. If excess buildup is noted, cleaning of the ice machine shall be completed.
* The ice scoop and container must be cleaned on a routine basis, generally daily.

**Resident Cups/Mugs:**

* Cups or mugs provided to the residents in their rooms must be cleaned on a daily basis and as needed.
* When cups or mugs are provided to the resident already filled, the cup or mug must have a lid during transportation throughout the hallways.
* Staff must follow the resident’s physician orders and care plan for recommendations related to liquids and adaptive equipment based on the individual resident’s need.
* If an ice chest is utilized to replenish ice in a resident’s cup or mug, staff should ensure:
	+ That the chest is covered while in the hallway.
	+ Ice scoops are utilized to obtain ice from the chest.
	+ When utilizing gloves to obtain ice, the staff must ensure that their glove is not contaminated by touching a resident’s mug, doorknob, lid to the chest, etc.
	+ When putting ice into the resident’s mug/cup, staff must ensure that the ice scoop does not touch the resident’s mug/cup in any fashion. If the scoop touches the mug/cup, the scoop must be washed or a new scoop obtained to prevent cross-contamination.
	+ Ice chests must be cleaned on a routine basis and as needed when soiled.

**Resources**

CMS. (2017, Nov. 2). *State Operations Manual, Appendix PP – Guidance to Surveyors for Long Term Care Facilities, F812*. <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/GuidanceforLawsAndRegulations/Downloads/Appendix-PP-State-Operations-Manual.pdf>