Name of Policy:	Food on the Clinical Units	THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO
Policy Number:	3364-104-1005	MEDICAL CENTER
Department:	Food & Nutrition Infection Prevention & Control Hospital Administration Medical Staff	
Approving Officer:	Chief Executive Officer, UTMC Chair, Infection Control Committee Director, Food & Nutrition Services	
Responsible Agent:	Director, Food & Nutrition Infection Preventionist	
Scope:	The University of Toledo Medical Center and its Medical Staff, Food & Nutrition	Effective Date: 7/10/23 Initial Effective Date: 8/2002
New policy proposal Major revision of existing policy Reaffirmation of existing policy		

(A) Policy Statement

Handling and consumption of food will be managed according to the following procedure. Food and Nutrition Services (FANS) representatives will not serve food prepared outside the department.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To protect patients and staff from cross-contamination and infection related to food.

(C) Procedure

(1) Patient Food

- (a) FANS representatives will not serve food to patients that was prepared outside the FANS department.
 - (i) Family members or friends of inpatients will be discouraged from bringing food from outside of the facility.
 - (ii) Foods or beverages brought in by family or friends must be taken directly to the patient's room for immediate consumption.
 - (iii) No food or beverages previously in a patient's room will be allowed to be stored in the nourishment room or refrigerator, including items from their meal trays.
 - (iv) No open containers or partially eaten foods will be kept inside unit refrigerators (This includes partial individual soda and milk).
- (b) Stock supply of patient food will be stored in the galley/kitchen of each unit. Commercial or dietary prepared foods will have an expiration date and must be rotated according to the expiration date.

(2) Employee Food

Employee food will be stored in a separate, designated refrigerator, away from patient food and medications.

(3) Eating and Drinking on the Clinical Units

Due to the structure of the clinical units, it has been determined that eating food will not be allowed in the clinical units, except in the break room or other designated area(s) in the departments. Drinking beverages which are covered with lids will be allowed in areas where there are no specimens, medications, or other contaminated equipment.

- (4) Equipment Cleaning
 - (a) Dietary department will clean up small spills when restocking the units.
 - (b) Housekeeping will clean food service equipment as needed.
- (5) Food and Nutrition rooms located on the inpatient departments to be accessed by UTMC employees and staff only. Visitors and patient will be restricted from accessing these areas.

References:

Ohio Laws & Administrative Rules: Chapter 3717-1 State of Ohio Uniform Food Safety Code. https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/chapter-3717-1

Ohio Department of Health: Food Safety Program. https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/food-safety-program/welcome-to

Approved by: /s/		Review/Revision Date: 6/05 06/02/2008 07/01/2011	
Joshua Krupinski Director of Food and Nutrition Services	Date	07/01/2014 06/30/2017	
		10/14/2019 01/19/2023	
/s/ Michael Ellis, MD	Date	-	
Chair, Infection Control Committee			
<u>/s/</u>	D /		
Richard Swaine Chief Executive Officer - UTMC	Date		
Review/Revision Completed By:	Next Review Date:		
Food & Nutrition, Clinical Nutrition, Infection Prevention and Control	8/1/2026		
Policies Superseded by This Policy: 3364-109-EQP-308			