

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

B-34 ENVIRONMENTAL TEMPERATURE CONTROL POLICY

Purpose:

The United States Pharmacopeia (USP), medication manufacturers, the Committee on Accreditation of Ambulance Services (CAAS), the American Ambulance Association, and many other agencies all agree with the data from independent studies that have all shown decreases in efficacy of medications when stored outside of “Controlled Room Temperature” (59°-86°F). The purpose of this policy is to ensure our patients receive medications with the full expectation those medications will act as intended by the manufacturer and medical community.

Definition:

The “Controlled Room Temperature” is commonly defined as 59°-86°F or 25°C. The general target is to maintain medication and injectable fluids at Controlled Room Temperature. The manufacturer’s temperature storage recommendations are always followed above the Controlled Room Temperature range.

Procedure:

- Implement a department/service specific plan to maintain medications and injectable fluids at manufacturer recommendations or Controlled Room Temperature range.
- Suggestions to achieve compliance:
 - Climate control systems (heat and air conditioning) in apparatus bays
 - Commercial medication and fluid storage devices installed in ambulances/vehicles
 - Compartmentalize medication storage and keep those containers stored in a Controlled Room Temperature environment
 - This program will require a department policy detailing where the medications will be stored to comply and how they will be retrieved when a call for service is received.
- All SIREMS service initial environmental temperature control policies or changes to those policies must be approved by the EMS Medical Director.