

Fridge Temperature Monitoring

In order to maintain the cold chain of supply and to protect patients and the public it is a professional requirement to keep a written record of the daily maximum and minimum temperatures of your pharmacy refrigerator. This will ensure that the correct conditions for the storage of thermolabile products can be demonstrated. These records will protect both the interests of the patient and of the pharmacist making the supply. In order to support clinical governance in pharmacy, the RPSGB have produced the following guidance and advice.

Readings should be made daily using a maximum-minimum thermometer, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. A record should also be made of the dates when the refrigerator is defrosted, which should be at regular intervals. A notebook is a suitable means of recording temperatures against dated entries, although specific sheets can be used (see overleaf). This task can be, and should be, delegated to a trained member of staff.

The temperature of the refrigerator must be kept between the range of **+2°C and +8°C**. Appropriate action should be taken to ensure that this range is maintained.

A fridge containing medicines should not be used to store food and drinks in order to limit the chance of changes in temperature and to limit and minimise the risk of contamination.

The fridge cabinet should have sufficient space around it for air to circulate and not be obstructed with papers, bags etc.

Top tips:

- Make sure you know how to use and read your thermometer – guidance on how to use both mercury and digital thermometers can be found at <http://www.rpsgb.org/pdfs/restoolusetherm.pdf>
- The reset button must be pressed after recording the temperature each day in order to obtain a new baseline
- If using a digital thermometer make sure the probe is in a suitable position – this could be inside a box of medicine for example
- If you get regular readings below +2°C and above +8°C. Review the training and competence of the member of staff reading the temperatures and / or ensure your fridge is working correctly
- If possible, ensure your pharmacy has an emergency power supply if there is a power cut – ideally this should supply power for a minimum of 24 hours
- Delegate the task of taking daily readings to a trained member of staff but review the readings on a monthly basis

Date / Day	Max Temp C	Min Temp C	Action taken if outside range 2-8 C	Checked by (initials)	Thermometer reset (tick)
Monday or 5 th	9	1	Ensured thermometer working properly – informed pharmacist	ST	4

For the most up to date resource tool please refer to the RPSGB website:

<http://www.rpsgb.org/protectingthepublic/inspectorate/>

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For all your legal and ethical inquiries please contact the RPSGB advisory service on 020 7572 2308

