

Use of microwave ovens in clinical areas

Microwave ovens are in the main only to be used for heating or reheating food for healthcare workers consumption.

In some areas an exception can be made if approved by the Infection Prevention Control Team. When this happens there must be written guidance on use of microwaves.

Microwaves should not be used to heat or reheat patient food.

Microwave ovens must always be kept in a clean and hygienic state.

There must be agreement locally regarding who is responsible for cleaning the microwave after use and this should be on the cleaning schedule.

Access to ward kitchens if patients/ parents will be using microwaves:

- Patients/parents must speak with the nurse in charge to be shown where food is to be stored.
- Patients/parents will not have access to the ward kitchen/beverage bay and refrigerator unless permission has been granted by the nurse in charge.
- Patients/ Parents should whenever possible avoid using ward kitchens during meal service to avoid congestion.
- Where it is deemed therapeutic for patients to have access to the ward kitchen they must be supervised by a member of staff.
- No outdoor clothing or bags should be stored in the kitchen area.