

**VA NORTHEAST OHIO HEALTHCARE SYSTEM  
Louis Stokes Cleveland DVAMC  
Medical Research Service  
Subcommittee on Research Safety Policy**

**Effective Date: JUNE 14, 2023**

**SOP Title: EATING AND DRINKING POLICY**

**SOP Number: SRS--007**

**SOP Version: .11**

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1. **PURPOSE:** To ensure the protection of employees, patients, and visitors in Medical Research Service from potentially contaminated food, food products, cosmetics, contact lenses, and medications intended for human use.
2. **POLICY:** Food, food products, cosmetics, and medications for human use cannot be stored or used in Research Laboratories, Animal Housing Rooms, Clinical Research Center Exam Rooms, and space within the Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center/Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center where patient testing/therapy takes place, or the equivalent. This is especially important in laboratories in which a chemical or hazardous substance is stored or is being used.

Regarding Animal Research, human food and food products used for laboratory animals and stored within the Animal Research Facility (ARF), or research laboratories, must be clearly marked “NOT FOR HUMAN USE”.

The handling/application of contact lenses within a laboratory is prohibited. Appliances (refrigerators, coffee pots, microwaves) that are designated for human use with food and drink cannot be placed in any room where chemicals or other hazardous substances are used or stored. Appliances, such as refrigerators and microwaves, used in research space or the ARF must be labeled that they are not to be used for human food items. Unauthorized narcotics, alcoholic beverages, or items similar in nature are forbidden on Medical Center property (Medical Center Policy 005-024).

Note: Smoking is forbidden on the campus of the Louis Stokes Cleveland DVAMC.

3. **DEFINITIONS:**

- a. **Food** - any consumable item. This includes lunches, beverages, gum, candy, etc.; except that which is designated for animal use only.
- b. **Food products** - Material used to make or aid in the consumption of food. This includes plates, silverware, cups, pop cans or bottles, mugs, napkins, etc.; except that which is designated for animal use only.
- c. **Cosmetics** - Products designed to enhance the body by direct application. This includes lotions, lip stick, Chapstick®, perfume, etc.
- d. **Medications** - Drugs or other agents used to treat disease or injury. This includes prescription medication, aspirin, cough drops, etc.; except that which is designated for animal use only.

4. PROCEDURES:

Research Laboratories, Animal Housing Rooms, Clinical Research Center Exam Rooms, and space within the Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Center/Advanced Platform Technology (APT) Center where patient testing/therapy takes place, or the equivalent. This is especially important in laboratories in which a chemical or hazardous substance is stored or is being used.

(1) Appliances (refrigerators, coffee pots, microwaves) that are designated for use with food cannot be placed in any room where chemicals or other hazardous substance or laboratory animal is being housed.

(2) Any product for human use must never be carried on an employee's person (pockets, etc.) while in a laboratory wherein hazardous materials or laboratory animals are housed.

5. REFERENCE: MP-3, Part III, Appendix 5H; 29 CFR 1910.141 (g) (4); CDC/NIH "Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories" 4<sup>th</sup> Edition May 1999, Section III, A 3, and Medical Center Policy 005-024, January 4, 2019.

6. RESCISSION: The date rescission of this policy is June 13, 2028.

7. FOLLOW UP: Research Safety Coordinator