



Healing the Body Enriching the Mind Nurturing the Soul



**Covenant
Health**

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE: Our role in Best Practice Dissemination

Barbara Roemer & Louise Kashuba

Professional Practice Leaders for Nursing

Disclosures

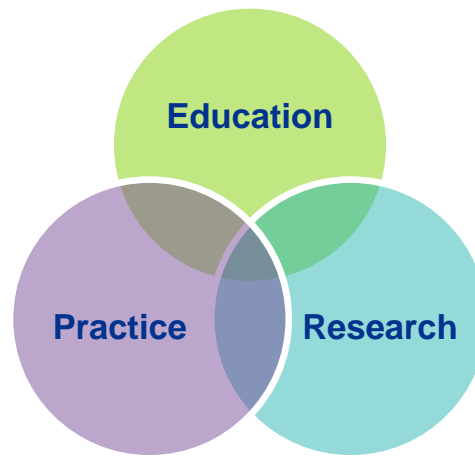


We have no relationship that could be perceived as placing me in a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of this presentation.

Professional Practice



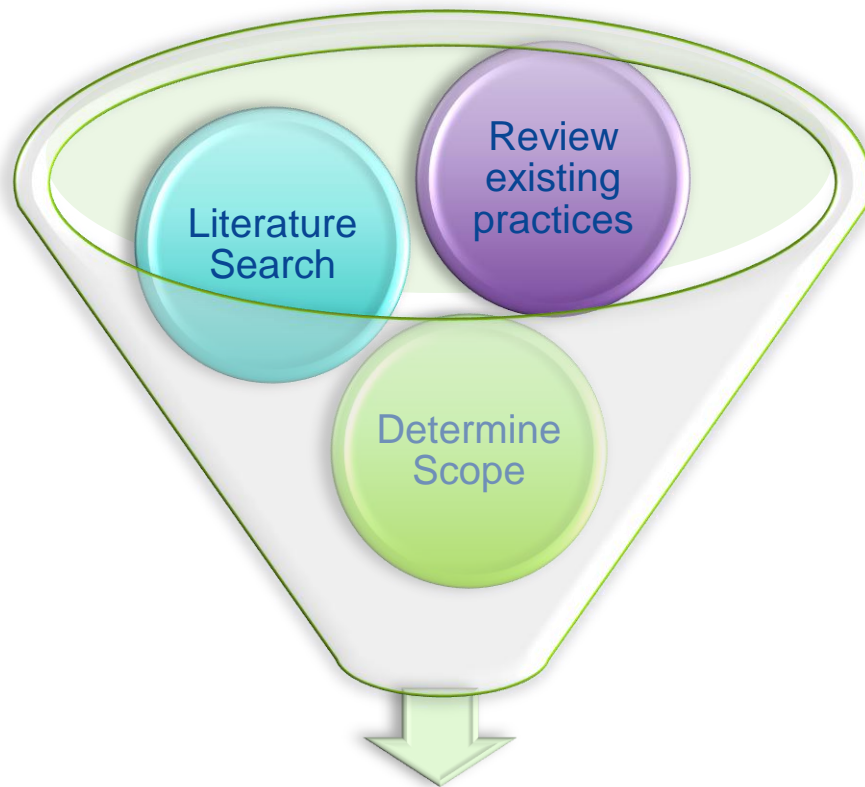
To be the advocate for best practice within Covenant Health



'Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much' - Helen Keller

A clinical question:

What is the best temperature to warm blankets in a warming cabinet?



Practice Bulletin

The Practice Bulletin



Best Practice Bulletin



Professional Practice Recommendations for Covenant Health Clinical Staff



Professional Practice Recommendation

11 Oct 2013
✓ Information Update

Clinical areas affected:

All acute and continuing care clinical areas

For the information of:

Nursing
Facilities Management
Clinical Engineering

Best Practice Statement

Warming Cabinet temperature recommendations:

1. Blankets and towels **must** be warmed separately from solutions.
2. Dedicate and Label warming cabinets to warm either blankets/towels OR solutions. Labels should identify intended contents and maximum permissible temperature setting.
3. **Blanket and towels** may be warmed to a Maximum temperature of 54 C (130 F).
4. **Solutions** may be warmed to a Maximum temperature of 43 C(110 F)
5. Warming cabinets should be inspected annually (or as per manufacturers recommendations) to verify proper temperature settings and performance.
6. Responsibility for setting and periodically monitoring the temperature of warming cabinets should be assigned to designated staff.

Rationale

- Maintenance of normothermia (36–38 °C) has important clinical benefits, as well as provides the patient with a sense of comfort and well being.
- Due to the thermal properties of liquids they are more likely to result in thermal burns if heated greater than 43 °C.
- A blanket warmed to 54 °C "is incapable of causing thermal injury because the blanket does not transfer significant specific heat to the patient".(House, 2013)

References

Hazard report update. ECRI Institute revises its recommendation for temperature limits on blanket warmers.(2009). [Health Devices, July 38\(7\), 230-231.](#)
Hooper, V., D. et. al.(2009). ASPAN's Evidence-based Clinical Practice Guideline for the promotion of Perioperative Normothermia. [Journal of Perianesthesia Nursing, 24\(5\), pp. 271-287.](#)
House, Loma R. (2013). Blankets Warmed to 200°F Do No Harm. [Enthermics Medical Systems.](#) Retrieved from <http://www.enthermics.com/Product/p/DC250/pid/0.aspx>

Contact person for Additional Resources:

Name: Barbara Roemer

Title: Professional Practice Leader Seniors Health Nursing

Telephone:780-431-5385

Email:Barbara.roemer@covenanthealth.ca

Please Circulate and Post

Questions?

