

Guideline for Prevention of Hypothermia

Active Warming Methods

When indicated, warm the patient with one or more of the following active warming methods during all phases of perioperative care:

- Forced-air warming systems (eg, over- and under-body blankets, warm-air gowns) may be used.
- Warm water–circulating devices may be used.
- Conductive/resistive warming devices (eg, electric heating pads, carbon-fiber resistive-heating blankets, conductive warming mattresses, self-warming blankets) may be used.
- Warmed anesthesia gases may be used to warm the patient as an adjunct to other active warming or passive insulation methods.
- Warmed irrigation solutions (33° C to 40° C [91.4° F to 104° F]) may be used.
- Warmed IV fluids may be used as an adjunct to other active warming methods.
- Radiant warming devices may be used.
- Warm insufflation gases may be used as an adjunct to other active warming method
- Ambient room temperatures may be increased as an adjunct to other active warming methods.

Always document measures taken to maintain patient normothermia in the patient's medical record, including the warming method used, warming device identifier, and temperature settings when applicable.