



## *Ambulatory Clinic Policy and Procedure*

Title: <b>CONSUMING FOOD/DRINK IN CLINICAL AREAS</b>	Policy Number: <b>EP 7.15</b>
Regulation OSHA Regulations 29 CFR1910.1030(d)(2)(ix) & Reference: 29 CFR 1910.141(g)(2)	Effective Date: <b>12/2018</b>

### **Policy Statement:**

It is the policy of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso (TTUHSC El Paso) to control the spread of infection through the consumption of food and drink in clinical areas.

### **Scope and Distribution:**

This policy applies to all Texas Tech Physicians of El Paso ambulatory clinics.

### **Procedure:**

1. To prevent the possible transmission of pathogens, consumption of food or drink in active clinical areas (i.e. nursing stations, charting areas, exam rooms, etc.) is not allowed.
2. Faculty/staff/students/residents may keep food/drink in a closed off area such as a drawer or cabinet as long as the food/drink is packaged or housed in a closed container.
3. Patients and those with them should not be allowed to consume food or drink in exam rooms to minimize risk of exposure to pathogens.
4. It will be left up to the discretion of clinical departments whether or not to allow consumption of food/drink in patient waiting areas outside the clinical area. If a clinical department elects not to allow consumption of food/drink in patient waiting areas they must adhere to the following:
  - a. The clinical department must create a departmental policy stating that no food or drink is allowed to be consumed in the patient waiting area.
  - b. Signs must be visibly posted in the waiting area informing patients that consuming food or drink is not to be consumed in patient waiting areas.

Policy Number: <b>EP 7.15</b>	Original Approval Date: <b>8/2014</b>
Version Number: <b>2</b>	Revision Date: <b>12/2018</b>
Signatory approval on file by: Juan Figueroa, M.D. Director of Clinical Operations Clinic Operations Committee, Chair Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center El Paso	