

Laerdal MediCool Kit

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the kit made of?

A. The outer fabric is a polyester mesh. The cooling agent inside the outer mesh is a water absorbent co-polymer which is totally non-toxic. The co-polymer beads have been formulated specifically to retain temperature for as long as possible.

Q. Will it cool the patient if it is used wet but not frozen?

A. Evaporation will reduce skin temperature up to 7° but it will have little effect in the reduction of core body temperature. The product should be used frozen as per the directions for use.

Q. Is it better to put the blanket under the patient rather than on the chest?

A. No. There is no need to move your seriously ill patient to apply the kit or to continue rotations. It will cool just as efficiently on the chest. When frozen the blanket can be quite rigid so could cause pressure areas if the patient were to lie on it.

Q. Can we reuse the kit?

A. The MediCool Kit is registered as a single patient use product therefore we do not recommend reuse. This is due to the product being used with critically ill patients in high acuity patient care environments and is to minimize possible infection control risks.

Q. When we activated the kit small white specks of gel were seen on the outer mesh, what are they and are they a risk?

A. The fabric is mesh so tiny beads may escape during activation. The substance is non toxic and will not affect the performance of the kit or hurt the skin of your patient or staff.

Q. Dose it matter if we mix the blue and white items?

A. No, however it is easier for staff to document the two hourly rotations if you use items of the same colour for each rotation.

Q. The kit came out of the freezer as a solid block. What can we do about this?

A. There are several things you can do. Turn the freezer temperature down a little. Make sure that items are put into the freezer correctly, in plastic bags, all items flat not scrunched up and plastic separating cap surfaces. Take your solid kit and bash it against a hard surface as you would a bag of party ice. The fabric is very strong so this will not damage the external mesh. This is only a problem when you first remover the kit after it has been frozen for some time, as you use the kit it is only in the freezer for 2 hours so rarely becomes solid.

Q. How do we dispose of the kit?

A. All items are biodegradable so can be disposed of in normal waste. If the patient has had an infection the used kit should be disposed of as contaminated waste.

Q. Can we replace individual items?

A. No. The kit is sold as a whole and no replacement parts are available, as it is a single patient use product.

Q. Where should the groin pads be placed?

A. Tuck them as deeply as possible in the cleft of the groin, on the iliac.

Q. How do you apply the cap?

A. The cap can be applied with the split either at the front or back of the head, dependent on your patients monitoring requirements.

Q. How long should you cool the patient for?

A. The ILCOR, ARC & NZRC Guidelines state a minimum of 12 hours and a maximum of 24 hours of cooling.

Q. How do you stop cooling the patient and warm them?

A. Simply remove the kit and place a clean unwarmed blanket on the patient. Rewarming can take a number of hours but this is not detrimental to the patient. It is

not recommend that active rewarming is used, as this may negate the cooling effect on the patients' condition.

Q. How many kits do we need?

It always best to have two kits on hand, one in the freezer and the other un-activated in storage. This allows for quick application to a new patient and provides a back up kit for the next patient.

Q. How can I order the kit?

A. Through the Laerdal website:

Australia www.laerdal.com.au

New Zealand www.laerdal.co.nz

Or phone customer service

Australia 1800 331 565

New Zealand 0800 523 732