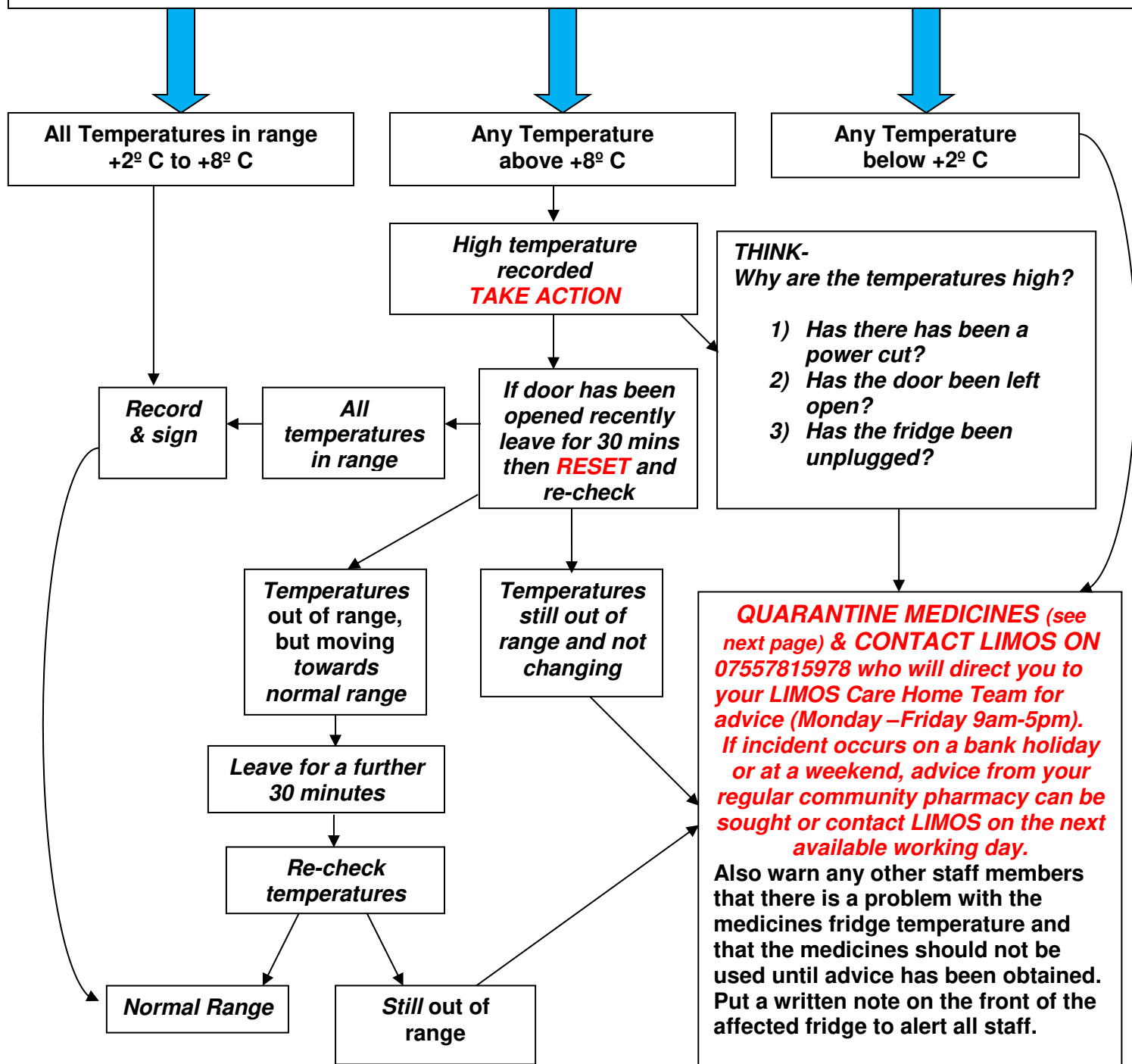


CARE HOME GOOD PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS

FLOW CHART FOR MONITORING FRIDGE TEMPERATURES IN CARE HOMES

Read and record the **Current, Maximum and Minimum** fridge temperatures a minimum of **ONCE** a day as well as the following times:

- 30 minutes after prolonged opening of the fridge e.g. ordering, receiving or sorting out medicines
- If there are ongoing problems with fridge temperatures or the fridge alarm goes off. Then **RESET** the thermometer to clear the Maximum & Minimum Temperature Memory



Most insulins & some brands of latanoprost eye drops can be stored at room temperature for up to 28 days, Please check the dispensing label &/or manufacturer's leaflet for full storage requirements of any fridge items

Additional useful Fridge information

- A pharmacy fridge stores medication between $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ and a domestic fridge stores food between the temperatures of 0°C and $+4^{\circ}\text{C}$. All refrigerated medicines should be stored in a dedicated pharmacy fridge in accordance with the manufacturer's licence. Food should never be stored in a pharmacy fridge.
- The pharmacy fridge should be locked at all times, be less than 10 years old, be in good working order and have no unusual noises or smells. It should be situated in a cool room, not next to a radiator/electrical equipment or in direct sunlight.
- The Minimum, Maximum and Current fridge temperatures should be recorded on a fridge temperature recording form at least ONCE each day. These records should be kept for a minimum of 4 years.
- After reading and recording fridge temperatures you must **ALWAYS** reset the thermometer, so that you have accurate future readings.
- If the Minimum, Maximum or Current temperatures are below $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$ or above $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$ you **MUST** take action, do not ignore this or leave for another member of staff to action.
- If medicines have been exposed to temperatures above $+8^{\circ}\text{C}$, **quarantine** (by segregating the medicines in a bag or plastic container with a lid, labelled with date, "do not use" and "awaiting stability information") and keep them inside another unaffected pharmacy fridge if you have one, as soon as possible. If no other pharmacy fridge at your care home, try to return the fridge temperatures back to normal range as soon as possible. Call LIMOS for advice.
- If medicines have been exposed to temperatures below $+2^{\circ}\text{C}$, quarantine as above immediately. Do not use any of these medicines and contact LIMOS as soon as possible.
- If medicines have been left outside of the pharmacy fridge, put them back straight away, mark them, and keep separate from unaffected stock. Call LIMOS immediately and let them know the time medicines have been left out of the fridge and approximate room temperature e.g. $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$. They will advise you what to do.
- Medicines subjected to a subsequent fridge incident may require disposal. Seek advice from LIMOS.
- If medicines are quarantined, these should not be thrown away unless advised to do so by LIMOS. If you require new medication supplies, liaise with your GP Practice or Community Pharmacy.
- All out of date refrigerated medicines or medicines that LIMOS have told you can no longer be used due to exposure to high or low temperatures, should be discarded and placed in a blue lidded pharmaceutical waste bin (suitable for disposing of medicines) for incineration if from a nursing home or returned to community pharmacy if from a residential home. Not all medicines exposed to high or low temperatures need to be discarded, contact LIMOS for advice.
- Pharmacy fridges should be serviced on an annual basis to avoid any incidents due to mechanical failure.
- Pharmacy fridges (that are not self-defrosting) should be defrosted regularly and kept clean.
- Ensure that the pharmacy fridge plug has a label '**DO NOT UNPLUG FRIDGE**' written on it.
- Consider replacing any pharmacy fridges that are more than 10 years old especially if prone to incidents. Contact LIMOS for advice.
- For additional fridge temperature reassurance you could purchase a data logger. This is kept in the fridge and when a suspected fridge incident occurs, the information from the data logger can be downloaded onto a computer to give you accurate temperature information by the minute/hour.
- Public Health England recommends that all pharmacy fridges have an independent battery operated fridge thermometer. This is especially useful in the case of a power cut and normally independent thermometers give a more accurate internal reading than the inbuilt fridge thermometer.
- Remember to replace the battery in the independent fridge thermometer once a year, put a sticker on the reverse side to say when next battery due.
- Everybody who uses a pharmacy fridge is responsible for monitoring the fridge temperatures and taking action when needed. Please ensure responsibilities around monitoring fridges temperatures and action to take are included within your care home medication policy.
- Tell your LIMOS Pharmacist/ Technician about any unusual fridge items a resident is taking. They can proactively support you with stability information to inform required storage for individual medicines.

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- **If there are ongoing problems with fridge temperatures or the fridge alarm goes off.**

Then **RESET** the thermometer to clear the Maximum & Minimum Temperature Memory

Care Home Name					Month & Year		
		Fridge Temperatures °C					
Date	Time	Current	Maximum	Minimum	Reset (Tick)	Checked by (Initials)	Actions

If any Current, Maximum or Minimum temperature is below +2c or above +8c please follow the **LIMOS flow chart for monitoring fridge temperatures at care homes** and if necessary contact LIMOS on 07557815978