

Baptist Medical Center Discovers a Hot New Product for Cold Milk (and So Much More)



Marshelle Appel, L.D., FNS, Patient Services Manager at Baptist Medical, played an important role in the implementation of the facility's FX cooler

"Finally, we found the perfect solution," says James Fritz, RD, LD, referring to the Randell FX Series cooler. Fritz, who serves as Director of Food & Nutrition Services at Baptist Health Systems in Jackson, Mississippi, oversees food service operations for the 600-bed Baptist Medical Center. He and his staff consistently had problems with milk cartons heating up on patient trays. They were using air curtain refrigerators but were constantly looking for a better alternative. "Nothing provided a good solution," says Fritz. That is, until à la cart/unified brands introduced them to the FX.

Baptist Medical Center – an operation that uses cook-serve and produces most food from scratch – acted as a test site for an FX Series cooler. The cooler they used was an FX-1UC FlexiCold, configured as a mobile unit with two side-by-side drawers on a base with casters. Using the FX cooler, prior to each meal period they loaded milk and other cold beverages into the cooler, located near the trayline.

"We were so favorably impressed with the FX cooler's ability to keep product cold that we went ahead and purchased it right away," says James Fritz, noting that milk was consistently kept under 40°. "Basically, we were looking for a really good milk cooler," he says, "but we discovered many other advantages of the FX as well."

According to Fritz, the time and temperature controls and the cooler's ability to keep milk at a consistent temperature are a "big deal," helping ensure food safety and regulatory compliance. "And no one likes warm milk." Fritz says, highlighting the cooler's role in boosting patient satisfaction.

The size and shape of the drawers allow the food service staff to configure the beverages any way they want to, and it is easy to modify the product in accordance with the hospital's daily census. "The unit is very ergonomically designed," says Fritz. "It provides easy access and makes tray assembly very efficient. They use a straight-line trayline set-up at Baptist Medical, and Fritz and his staff are constantly trying to improve their trayline. Fritz has discovered that the FX cooler lends itself to being very useful and efficient.

"I love the flexibility that our FX offers. It can be used as a refrigerator or freezer," Fritz notes, and he and his staff are now considering other uses for their cooler.

Fritz also confirms that the unit is very energy efficient. It doesn't put out a lot of heat, so it doesn't heat up their kitchen. And, he's found that it's easy to clean and sanitize. "What's more," says Fritz, "the unit is made from a very good grade of stainless steel, and we love having the top to use as a work surface."

Finally, Fritz has high praise for the support he continues to receive from à la cart/unified brands. "It's a pleasure working with them. Their Support Services Manager is one the most knowledgeable and professional representatives I have ever worked with," he says.



Keeping Your Cool

The Randell FX Series coolers, from a la cart/unified brands, offer a revolutionary concept in point-of-use refrigeration. Featuring FlexiCold technology, these coolers have an insulated insert in the drawers. The "cool" remains in the drawer insert, so your food and beverages stay cold – and safe – no matter how many times the drawer is opened and closed. Other unique capabilities and innovative features of the FX Series coolers also help make your daily operations less stressful.

- Multiple models available – FX-4N1 & FX-2N1 include rapid chill and safety thaw functions, in addition to refrigerating and freezing
- Precise temperature control from -5° to 40°
- Holds milk at a precise temperature with no ice crystals
- Each drawer holds 180 8-oz. milk cartons
- Ergonomic design, minimal reach for product
- Easy-to-manuever cart design
- Quiet compressor & energy efficient – uses 3.9 amps per drawer, on 115 V plug
- Drawer inserts are removable for pre-loading and cleaning
- Quality construction – high grade stainless steel exterior, press-fit removable gaskets with magnet-to-magnet seal, drawer tracks outside the cooled compartment for greater reliability and durability, and Delrin self lubricating material for drawers to slide on.

For more information on the FX Series coolers, available from à la cart/unified brands, call 888-994-7636 or visit www.unifiedbrands.net.