



**Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the Medical Center**

**MEDICAL CENTER POLICY NO. 0139**

- A. SUBJECT: Cellular Telephones, Wireless Devices and Other Radio Frequency Producing Equipment
- B. EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2012 (R)
- C. POLICY:

Cellular and wireless telephones, as well as other types of equipment including CB, amateur “ham” radios, and walkie-talkies, emit radio frequency (RF) transmissions that can adversely impact certain medical equipment. Adverse effects on patient care, diagnostic, life support and laboratory equipment have been documented. To protect the safety of patients and assure the integrity of medical equipment, the use of cellular/wireless phones and other RF producing equipment (e.g., Blackberry’s, hand-held personal digital assistants or PDA’s) is limited; restrictions pertaining to the use of these various devices are set forth in the table below:

Area	Approved <sup>1</sup> Cellular Phones and other RF Producing Devices	Other Cellular Phones and other RF Producing Devices	Walkie-Talkies
<b>UH 4<sup>th</sup> Floor RF susceptible areas: Telemetry Units, Hallways and Elevator Areas</b>	Unrestricted use.	May not be used.	Can remain in the “On” position but in “Listen” mode only.
<b>Highly instrumented areas: ER, OR’s and ICU’s</b>	Unrestricted use.	Restricted use: Must maintain 5’ distance from any medical devices.	Can remain in the “On” position but in “Listen” mode only.
<b>All other clinical areas</b>	Unrestricted use.	Restricted use: Must maintain 5’ distance from any medical devices.	Unrestricted use.
<b>Non-clinical areas: Offices, Waiting rooms, Elevator Lobbies, Lounges, Lobbies, conference rooms, etc.</b>	Unrestricted use.	Unrestricted use.	Unrestricted use.

CB and Amateur “ham” radio are not permitted in the Medical Center.

<sup>1</sup> Approved devices are those that have been procured through UVA Medical Center Procurement and/or are approved by Clinical Engineering for use in the Medical Center.


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All **non-cellular wireless** equipment intended to be integrated into the hospital structure shall be approved by Clinical Engineering prior to procurement and installation. Examples of such equipment include: portable telephones, department paging systems, and wireless monitoring devices.

D. PROCEDURE:

1. Signage shall be placed to inform visitors of areas within the Medical Center where cell phone use is limited or prohibited.
2. The Department of Supply Chain Management, Department of Pharmacy, and Department of Clinical Engineering shall educate and inform sales and service representatives of the requirements of this policy.
3. Facility Planning and Capital Development shall inform all construction contractors working within the Medical Center of the requirements of this policy.
4. Newly hired Medical Center staff members shall be informed of this policy during their initial orientation.
5. Clinical Engineering and Health System Technology Services (HSTS) will jointly review and approve any applications for the use of non-cellular wireless devices prior to their procurement. [A Wireless Device Monitoring Form](#) shall be completed prior to issuance of a purchase order for procurement of non-cellular wireless devices, and forwarded to the Director, Clinical Engineering.
6. Clinical Engineering shall maintain a listing of all approved non-cellular wireless devices in use within the Medical Center. This listing shall include the frequency, bandwidth or type of system, power output, and coverage area.
7. Questions regarding this policy and clarifications on the types of equipment restricted, as well as restricted locations and potential signal conflicts should be addressed to the Director of Clinical Engineering (924-2391).

SIGNATURE:

  
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R. Edward Howell, CEO, UVA Medical Center

  
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DATE:

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Revised September 1996, December 1997, May 2000, June 2003, December 2003, December, 2006,  
January 2009, June 2009, June 2012

Approved by Interim Chief Health Information and Technology Officer

Approved by Medical Center Administration