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Value(s): *Respect People*

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Approved by: Chief Executive Officer

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Restriction of Cellular Phone Usage

Policy: The use of cellular phones by patients, staff, and visitors is generally permitted within University Hospital buildings, including outpatient areas operated by University Hospital. However, cellular phone usage is restricted in certain areas, and the requirements of this policy are necessary to ensure a safe and comfortable environment for the care and recovery of our patients.

Procedure:

1. Whenever possible, the use of cellular phones should be limited to non-patient care areas, such as individual offices, administrative spaces, waiting rooms, corridors, lobbies, conference rooms, and the cafeteria.
2. To minimize potential interference with critical equipment and disruption to patient care, the use of cell phones is not permitted in designated patient-care areas. These areas will be clearly indicated by appropriate signage. Cellular phones should be turned OFF when in these designated areas.
3. Whenever a cellular phone is used, it should be done in a respectful manner that is not disruptive to the patient care and/or work environment (e.g., low volume, quiet or disabled ringtones, etc.).
4. If a staff member believes the use of a cell phone by an individual is having a disruptive or negative impact on patient care or the work environment, the staff member should politely direct the cell phone user to move to another location, or to end his/her call immediately. If the cell phone user disregards the directive from the staff member, Hospital Administration or Public Safety should be notified and asked to intervene.
5. The use of cellular phones with a built-in camera or other video recording device will also be restricted by the [Consent for Photography or Other Recordings for Marketing, Education, Research, or Scientific Purposes Policy, P-46](#).
6. In the event of a declared internal/external disaster, exceptions may be made to this policy. Refer to the Hospital Disaster Manual for details of the process for implementing cellular phones in an emergency situation.

Originating Department: Telecommunications

Contributing Department(s): Clinical Engineering