



# University of Connecticut Health Center

**TITLE: Cellular Phones**

**Policy Statement:**

Due to published incidents involving interference between patient care equipment and the use of cellular phones/radio frequency transmitters, UCHS prohibits the use of cellular phones and/or radio frequency transmitters in designated patient care areas. Signage prohibiting the use of cellular phones and wireless communications in designated areas must be posted.

**Procedure/Key Points:**

- Cellular phones should be turned completely “off,” not just placed in “standby” mode, before entering any patient care area.
- Radio frequency transmitters include, but are not limited to, walkie-talkies, police, paramedic, maintenance, and other similar hand-held, portable transmitters. These and other hand-held radio frequency transmitters, used by personnel, may be left “on” to receive messages but should not be keyed or activated when entering patient care areas. In emergency situations only, emergency response personnel who must use a radio frequency transmitter in a patient care area, should maintain a distance of one meter (3 feet) from any patient care equipment when transmitting.
- A personal communication system (not a cellular phone system) that is low-power, localized to a given area, and supplied by the Telecommunications Department, may be used in patient care areas, following approval by both the Telecommunications and the Clinical Engineering Departments.
- Use of cell phones or radio frequency transmitters in proximity to critical care instrumentation must be reported immediately to the department manager or designee.

**Reference:**

Department of Telecommunications and Clinical Engineering.

**REVISED: February 1999**