Section 9 Subject 9.13 **Policy 9.13.17**	Clinical Policies General Procedures **Use of Mobile Communication and/or Wireless Devices on Patient Care Units**	10/17/03 - Originated 06/28/06 - Reviewed w/ changes 09/10/09 - Reviewed w/o changes Clinical Equipment Services - Author

Use of Mobile Communication and/or Wireless Devices on Patient Care Units

Policy

Personal electronic devices pose a potential for electromagnetic interference (EMI) with medical devices. To ensure the safety of patients, mobile (portable) communication and/or wireless devices such as cell phones, personal data assistants (PDA's), Blackberry, laptops, etc., should not be used within three (3) feet of medical equipment by employees, volunteers, contractors, visitors, or students, in any patient care area.

UTMB owned portable electronic devices may be used in designated areas if they have been approved for use by Clinical Equipment Services (CES ext. 76143).

Guidelines

- All UTMB purchases of mobile communication equipment must comply with specifications as listed with the Purchasing and Telecommunications departments, and Clinical Equipment Services will develop and review the list periodically.
- Caution signs will be posted outside any area believed to be at risk for interference. Visitors and staff may be asked to turn off their personal electronic devices in some posted areas.
- Mobile communications and/or wireless devices may be used in areas not otherwise prohibited, as long as the three (3) foot separation can be maintained and the use of the device does not interfere with patient care or safety.
- Any suspected EMI interference should be reported to the Clinical Equipment Services department, and the suspected personal electronic device turned off.