

Johns Hopkins Safety Manual	<i>Policy Number</i>	HSE 016
<i>Subject:</i>	<i>Last Review Date</i>	9/28/11
Portable/Hand-Held Radio Frequency Transmitters	<i>Page</i>	1 of 1

PREFACE

Published reports indicate that the radio frequency (RF) energy from transmitters, such as cellular phones and two-way radios, can adversely affect the operation of electronic medical equipment. Types of interference reported range from inaccurate readings to total device shutdown. To protect patients, visitors, and personnel from the hazards associated with electromagnetic interference (EMI) in critical electronic medical devices, the following policy shall be implemented.

POLICY

It is the policy of Johns Hopkins to prohibit the use of portable/hand-held radio frequency (RF) transmitters (e.g.,cellular phones, two-way radios) in areas containing critical electronic medical devices unless approved by Clinical Engineering Services (CES). Cellular phones which have not been approved by CES should be placed in the Off position when entering areas containing critical electronic medical devices. In the restricted areas, two-way radios may be used by hospital personnel to receive transmissions, but may not be used to transmit within ten feet of any electronic medical device. Signs shall be posted at the entrance of applicable areas alerting patients, visitors, and staff of these restrictions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical Engineering Services	Establish areas where RF transmitters are prohibited.
	Test cellular phones for interference with medical equipment.
Facilities	Post conspicuous signage at the entrances to restricted areas.
Department Management	Enforce the policy in restricted areas within their department.

SPONSOR/CONTROL

Director, Clinical Engineering Services

REVIEW

Annually