

**MERCY MEDICAL CENTER REDDING**  
**Medical Staff Executive Committee Policies/Procedures Manual**

Department	Medical Staff Services		
Title	<b>Cellular Telephone Use in the Hospital</b>		
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**POLICY:**

The medical staff at Mercy Medical Center Redding is committed to providing the highest quality of patient care. In the current climate of instant communication, medical/allied health professional staff should be mindful of proper business conduct when using communication devices, such as cellular telephones with or without use of a blue-tooth, text-messaging devices, and digital camera devices. In addition, staff must have a heightened awareness with regard to confidentiality and HIPAA protections when devices are used.

**GUIDELINES:**

1. The use of **personal cellular phones or other wireless communication devices** is permitted within in the hospital or patient care area but must be used with discretion. However, devices are not to be inside the boundaries of any sterile field such as the operating rooms or procedure areas. It is imperative that at all times that those using such devices are aware of what is being said in an open setting and who may overhear a conversation (patients, families and staff).
2. The use of a **blue-tooth communication device or text messaging devices** is permitted within the hospital but is strictly prohibited during any procedural or surgical care of a patient. Again, when used it is imperative that at all times that those using such devices are aware of what is being said in an open setting and who may overhear a conversation (patients, families and staff).
3. Under no circumstances may a **camera** be operated in a patient care area. If a picture is to be taken for the purpose of direct patient care, there should be patient knowledge/consent (if appropriate) and information as to the purpose for doing so.

Any member of the medical staff, allied health professional staff or employee of the hospital must immediately report any breach or potential breach of the above to the Medical Staff Services Department and/or Chief of Staff. Such reports will be immediately investigated and addressed or reported as appropriate.

Failure to comply with this policy may result in corrective action as deemed appropriate by the medical staff and as permitted in the Medical Staff Bylaws.

Approvals	Medical Division	11/08	Newsletter	1/09
	Surgical Division	11/08	Developed	2008
	Executive Committee	11/08	Reviewed	
	Board of Directors	1/09	Revised	