



Cell Phone Safety

We all use them, but are they safe? That depends on who you ask, however the following presents helpful guidance for use at OHSU:

Use in Hospital and Clinics buildings

Wireless (cell) phones and portable radio transmitters in occupied patient care rooms is prohibited because of the possibility of electromagnetic interference with essential patient care equipment. There have been documented occasions where specific equipment is affected by cellular transmissions.

Recent evidence to the contrary calls this OHSU policy into question, but until further evidence is gained, that is the rule. Portable radio transmitters may be used in emergent situations.

Physiological Effects radio-frequency (RF) radiation from cell phone transmissions

OHSU's Center for Research on Occupational and Environmental Toxicology (CROET) summarized available information in a recent article. It noted that clear evidence of adverse human health effects does not yet exist. This may be due in part to insufficient published studies. Studies are currently underway to yield more information.

Although there is no clear answer, cautious cell phone users may choose to minimize RF exposures by keeping call times to a minimum and using cell phones with remote antennae.

