Policy: Wireless Communication Devices

ORGANIZATIONAL: Affects two or more departments.							
Folder	: Equipment			**Sub-Folder** (If Applicable)	Patient Safety and Performance Improvement		
Original Effective Date	7/1/2001	**Scope**	All				
Approved (Approver/Date)	MDRC: 7/20/2017						
Last Reviewed/ Revised Date	6/9/2017	**OSHA Category** (If Applicable)	III	**Standard** (If Applicable)	EC.02.06.01 EP26	**Number of pages**	2

PURPOSE:

To outline the safe use of Wireless Communication Devices within the hospital Wireless Communication Devices (WCD) are defined as one-way pagers, cellular phones, cordless phones, two way radios, internal mini-cellular phones, and any other type of WCD used in the hospital.

SKILL LEVEL:

All Southeast Health Staff

GUIDELINES:

The use of WCD can potentially cause medical equipment malfunctions due to the Electromagnetic Interference (EMI).

PROCEDURE:

1. Whenever possible, Two-way radios and walkie talkies should not be used to transmit when they are within 3 feet of electronic medical devices in use or patients connected to such devices.
2. All other WCD may be used throughout the facility without restriction.
3. As cellular telephone and other WCD technology continues to evolve, periodic testing will be conducted to determine how those changes affect medical devices at Southeast Missouri Hospital.
4. Hospital staff should report any clinically adverse effects that occur as a result of the use of any WCD. WCD in this situation must be turned off and removed from the area and the BioMed Department should be notified immediately.

Any questions related to this policy to the Director of Biomedical Services.

RISK ASSESSMENT:

A risk assessment involving the Director of Biomedical Services and Safety Officer., was performed on 8/1/2017. The WCD mentioned above were used at various distances from the following medical equipment in a simulated situation:

1. Bedside Patient Monitor
2. Central monitoring system
3. Wireless telemetry.

During the risk assessment, interference did not occur to the above medical equipment regardless of the distance the WCD was used from it in all cases. Findings were documented on the Environment of Care risk assessment in the Safety Management Section. Refer to IEE/ANSI C63.18.2004, 1997 in regards to testing.

REFERENCES:

U.S. Food & Drug Administration. FDA/CDRH Recommendations for EMC/EMI in Healthcare Facilities. 3/3/2017

AAMI Technical Information Report 18:2010, Guidance on Electromagnetic Compatibility of Medical Devices in healthcare facilities.

IEE/ANSI C63.18.2004 1997