

MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DEVICES – CLEANING

This Local Operating Procedure is developed to guide safe clinical practice in Newborn Care Centre (NCC) at The Royal Hospital for Women. Individual patient circumstances may mean that practice diverges from this Local Operating Procedure.

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INTRODUCTION

The increased use of communication devices in the NICU during work by Health Care Workers (HCW) increases the risk of hospital acquired infection due to cross-transmission of pathogens. To prevent and control cross-transmission, these devices should be cleaned. HCWs in the clinical area who are not required to use their communication devices should have them in their locker or bag.

1. AIM

- To ensure appropriate infection prevention and control criteria is followed for use of mobile phones and other communication devices in NCC.

2. PATIENT

- Newborns

3. STAFF

- Medical, nursing and midwifery staff and parents

4. EQUIPMENT

- Mobile phones
- Tablets
- Computers on wheels
- Cell wipes and shields
- Neutral detergent wipes

5. CLINICAL PRACTICE

Mobile phones

- Request for cell wipe and shield from the ward clerk, Nursing Team Leader or Nursing Unit Manager. Parents should be directed to the ward clerk.
- Wash hands.
- Remove wipe from packet and clean the mobile phone.
- Insert the cleaned device into the shield or plastic bag.
- Put the device on a table or shelf.
- Wash and dry hands.
- Retrieve your device.
- Switch device to “silent” mode before entering the clinical area.

NOTE:

Mobile phones are to be used for clinical purposes only. They should not be used:

- For social calls
- For social media
- As a calculator (please use calculators provided at each bedside)

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Tablets, computers on wheels, fixed phones and desktop computers

- Wipe the equipment with a neutral detergent wipe:
 - At the beginning of each shift
 - Prior to use
 - Prior to medical clinical handover (tablets, computers on wheels)
 - After use of equipment

6. RISK RATING

- Low

7. NATIONAL STANDARD

- Standard 1 Clinical Governance
- Standard 2 Partnering with Consumers
- Standard 3 Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection
- Standard 5 Comprehensive Care
- Standard 6 Communicating for Safety

8. ABBREVIATIONS AND DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

NCC	Newborn Care Centre	HCW	Health Care Worker/s
NICU	Neonatal Intensive Care Unit		

9. REFERENCES

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10. AUTHOR

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REVISION & APPROVAL HISTORY

April 2020 Primary document created and approved by NCC Quality Committee

FOR REVIEW: 2025