



Internal Medicine Residency Program
Department of Medicine, University of Calgary
North Tower Room 906 – Foothills Medical Center
1403 – 29th Street NW, Calgary, AB T2N 2T9
www.departmentofmedicine.com/education

Internal Medicine Residency Program Cell Phone Use Policy

Key Messages from the Residency Program Committee

Cellular phones are ubiquitous in our society and for physicians they are a valuable tool for medical information access and communication between physicians. However, their use is also associated with challenges including distraction and information security.

Residents are strongly encouraged to review and follow AHS Policy #1160 "Cell Phones and Other Mobile Devices" (<https://extranet.ahsnet.ca/teams/policydocuments/1/clp-cell-phones-other-mobile-devices-1160-policy.pdf>). Furthermore, residents are expected to review and comply with the following guidelines.

1. Cell phones should not be used to conduct personal matters during interactions with patients, their families and other members of the health care team. Such use could be considered unprofessional.
2. Cell phones should not be used to conduct personal matters during patient care activities including charting and order entry.
3. Residents must take reasonable precautions when making a call or viewing information on a cell phone to ensure that health, personal and business information cannot be overheard or viewed by unauthorized parties.
4. Patient identifiable information should never be included in communications between physicians through texting or other electronic messaging tools.
5. Patient identifiable information should never be stored on a cell phone or other personal electronic device.
6. Residents must not use their cell phones to record any photographs, audio or videos for medical purposes. This included photos without identifying features (i.e. rash).
7. The use of phones during sit-down rounds is only acceptable if discussed with attending/senior trainee and for the purpose of looking at reference information.
8. Receiving urgent personal calls and messages during the workday is inevitable. If this does occur, excuse yourself from the patient/clinical setting and handle matters in a private setting. If necessary, ask to be excused from further clinical duties depending on the nature of the matter.
9. Be aware that cell phones can be a source of infection.