

Risk of interference	Type of communication system	Recommendation
<p>High*</p>	<p>Analogue emergency service radios.</p>	<p>Use in hospitals only in an emergency, never for routine communication.</p>
	<p>Private business radios (PBRs) and PMR446.e.g. porters' and maintenance staff radios (two-way radios).</p> <p>A new Policy is underway to address separately how we control MCDs. In future, cross reference will be required when referring to the mobile phone issues.</p>	<p>Minimise risks by changing to alternative lower risk technologies where appropriate, or following risk assessment introduce procedures to ensure that these devices are switched off</p>
<p>Medium</p>	<p>Cellphones (mobile phones). TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio System). Laptop computers, palmtops and gaming devices fitted with higher power wireless networks such as GPRS and 3G.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total ban on these systems is not required and is impossible to enforce effectively. • Should be switched off or should not encroach near critical care or life support medical equipment (near defined as < 500mm). • Should be used only in designated areas. • Authorised health and social care staff and external service personnel should always comply with local rules regarding use.
<p>Low</p>	<p>Cordless telephones (including DECT). Low power computer wireless networks such as RLAN systems and Bluetooth.</p>	<p>These systems are very unlikely to cause interference under most circumstances and need not be restricted.</p>

* Guidance on the management of such equipment within healthcare premises will be provided under separate cover.