

DEPARTMENT OF ANESTHESIOLOGY



Standard Operating Procedure Title: Appropriate use of text pagers.

Policy Number: C-62

Date Established: 6/16/08

Date Reviewed: 4/26/16

Date Revised:

The reliance on text paging for critical communications has become a standard practice at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Because of the potential for system overload and failure that might negatively impact patient or staff safety, the following protocol regarding use of this system will be effective immediately.

1. All faculty and staff should limit text paging to the contacts necessary for carrying out routine and emergent duties directly related to our clinical mission. Text pagers should not be used for frivolous messages or messages unrelated to clinical responsibilities.
2. For messages that impact patient or staff safety that can be sent as numeric characters only, the fastest method is to page by phone.
3. The best method for text messaging is to page directly from the Satelink web page at the following link: www.satelink.net/CustomerCare/SendMessage.html Utilizing other methods or programs may delay your message. (See policy - Contacting Attending Anesthesiologists).
4. When sending a text message to a pager via any means, limit the total number of characters sent to 160 to reduce air time.
5. Group pages should be limited to the fewest members possible. Requests for sending group pages to members of the Department must be cleared by the AIC, Clinical Director, or Chief CRNA.