



“WE ARE REDUCING THE DIRECT AND PASSIVE EXPOSURE TO NON-IONISING RADIATION EMITTED FROM CELL-PHONES AND Wi-Fi AT THE ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS III HOSPITAL - WE ARE PROTECTING THE CHILDREN”

Brief note

The Directorate and doctors of Archbishop Makarios III Hospital, taking into account the scientific documentation on the impact of wireless communication on children, and the concerns of the medical world, decided to implement the above project, adopting the Precautionary Principle. This initiative, that has started from the Pediatric Intensive Therapy Unit (PITU), comprises a first step towards **"the development of the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital as an international model/pioneer hospital that applies the PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE, reducing the exposure of children to the radiation of wireless communication»**

The pilot application/research has been completed in the PITU, and has also been directly implemented in the Neonatal Intensive Therapy Unit (NITU), with a prospective extension to other units. The main findings are:

- 1. The use of Wi-Fi creates levels of continuous and uninterrupted passive, as well as significant active exposure, at levels much higher than documented biologically-based safety criteria. After the disconnection of Wi-Fi and the use of wired connection, exposure dramatically dropped to safe levels below biologically-based safe limits. The avoidance of carrying and using mobile phones, especially "smart" phones, by parents and staff in children chambers, is the second most important and essential factor in reducing exposure. Therefore, wired internet connection should be the only acceptable solution in a hospital.**
- 2. The situation in the Neonatal Intensive Therapy Unit, where there was no Wi-Fi signal or router, near the chambers, was excellent with almost non measurable levels, clearly within safety limits. The unit has all the potential to directly**

emerge as a Model Unit with Low Exposure, an oasis for safe hospitalization, provided that parents and staff enter the chambers with their phones switched in flight mode or without them.

3. The pilot campaign indicated the problem of ignorance within staff and parents and the underestimation of risks, as well as the lack of knowledge on good practices about the Prophylaxis of children and the reduction of their Exposure.
4. It was found that at the Archbishop Makarios Hospital two basic factors ensure the applicability of the Project and its extension to other Units:
 - a. The existing excellent system of wired networks throughout the hospital, and
 - b. Based on preliminary measurements, it appears that radiation from the existing antennas - base stations in the hospital is relatively limited. Therefore, with the use of wired internet and by limiting the use of mobile phones and other wireless devices, **it is possible to achieve a hospitalization environment at biologically safe exposure levels.**
5. This status quo regarding the placement of antennas should at all costs be maintained, and the addition of new 3G/4G antennas should be avoided. It is also important to protect the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital, and other hospitals from any 5G development. The placement of 5G antennas near the Hospital must be prohibited. Any needs for medical application can be only served via wired connections to 5G through optical fibers. Mobile telephony will be served through the existing 3G/4G networks.

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President of the Cyprus National Committee on Environment and Children's Health

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The initiative and the inspiration for the project was drawn collectively by the two intensivists, Dr. A. Sergis and Dr. A. Cleanthous, and the President of the National Committee, Dr. S.C. Michaelidou, who coordinates and supports the Project. Dr. A. Neophytou and Dr. A. Elia immediately embraced and supported it. Dr Th. Metsis, Electrical and Mechanical Engineer with expertise in Electro-smog, participated on a voluntary basis, by providing consultancy services for sampling and evaluating the measurements. The cooperation of Mrs T. Nikolaidou, Head of the Nursing Staff, all doctors and staff of the PITU and NITU, and the National Committee was significant.