

An RCHT Incident:

In September 2018, a patient left the ward to meet her family in the coffee shop. In doing so she left her phone charger plugged in to the wall socket with the 'phone end' on a napkin on the bed.

A few minutes later a vigilant nurse noticed a light smoke coming from the bedclothes. The nurse was quickly able to move the lead and unplug the charger and raise the alarm.



This was not the original charger but was a reputable generic replacement brand.

The Fire and Rescue Service estimate that if left unnoticed for another **90 seconds** a full fire would have developed destroying the room, similar to that below.



Contact us

If you would like any further advice or information please contact:

Hospital Fire Safety Advisors

01872 25 3443

rch-tr.firesafety@nhs.net

When you go home why not request a FREE home fire safety check?

Contact Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service on 0800 3581 999 or visit:

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/community-and-living/cornwall-fire-and-rescue-service-homepage/keeping-safe/fire-safety/fire-safety-at-home/free-home-fire-safety-check/>

Safety Fire and Security Management

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust

Truro

Cornwall TR1 3LJ

Phone: 01872 25 2976 / 3875

E-mail: rch-tr.healthandsafety@nhs.net

If you would like this leaflet in large print, braille, audio version or in another language, please contact the General Office on 01872 252690



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NHS

Royal Cornwall Hospitals

NHS Trust

Charging mobile phones and other electronic devices in hospital

Patient safety information



One + all | we care

Mobile phones, laptops, tablets and other electronic devices have become an integral part of daily life, especially where we need to keep in touch with family or to fill in time.

What's the problem?

There is an increasing number of reported incidents where chargers and less frequently, devices have overheated and caught fire or caused a fire in the home, in the work place and in hospital.

What can I do?

When you bring your phone, tablet or similar device into the hospital we ask you to bring the original or device manufacturer's branded charger with you, as this is less likely to cause a problem than a generic replacement charger.



Please help us to keep you, other patients, staff and visitors safe by using only:

- the manufacturer's charger - eg Nokia charger with a Nokia phone, Apple charger with an Apple device, etc.
- the white sockets at your bedside.

Please don't:

- leave your charger plugged into the socket when not in use
- use damaged chargers or leads
- put your phone or device under your pillow, even if not being charged
- leave your device on the bed covers, pillow or other soft furnishing when charging
- leave devices continuously on charge after the charge cycle is complete.

Please note: the charging of e-cigarettes/vapes is **not** allowed anywhere in our hospitals. If you would like advice and support in managing your smoking habits whilst in hospital please speak to your nurse.



What safety checks are made?

Whilst you are in hospital, we will visually check your charger and cable for obvious damage. If your charger appears to be damaged, staff will ask you not to use it in the hospital, but will help by asking your family or visitors to bring another in for you.

If you continue to use a defective charger or device we will ask your relatives/visitors to take it home for you.

Testing your equipment

If you are staying in one of our hospitals for an extended period, we may have a specially trained engineer test your equipment.

This is called PAT or portable appliance testing.

It is very rare for the test to cause any damage but if you have any concerns please speak to the engineer and your nurse/carer at the time.