I.   5.2.8 Internet Use

Chapter 5 - Information Technology	Original Effective Date: June 2000
Section: 5.2 Infrastructure Solutions	Date Last Reviewed: May 2023
Responsible Entity: Vice President and Chief Information Officer	Date Last Revised: July 2019

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the acceptable use and guidelines for Internet usage at UT Health San Antonio.

III. Scope

This policy applies to all faculty, staff, students, residents, healthcare providers, researchers, contractors, or any other individual (collectively, Workforce Member, including employees and non-employees).

IV. Policy

As part of the UT Health San Antonio (UTHSA) communications infrastructure, Systems & Network Operations (SNO) provides Internet access to facilitate information flow in support of our clinical education, research and service missions. In general, UTHSA Internet users must protect this valuable resource, see the Institutional Handbook of Operating Policies (IHOP), Policy 5.2.5, Protection of Information Resources, and ensure compliance with IHOP, Policy 5.8.10, Information Resources Acceptable Use and Security Policy. However, due to the strategic significance of the Internet, additional user guidance is provided.

1. Personal use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. As such, use should be limited, and in compliance with incidental use as defined in IHOP, Policy 5.8.10, Information Resources Acceptable Use and Security Policy. Abuse of this privilege may result in revocation of access, as well as appropriate disciplinary action.

2. All Internet usage can be recorded and stored along with the source and destination. The Internet path record is the property of UTHSA. Such information is subject to the Texas Public Information Act and the laws applicable to state records retention.

3. Employees should have no expectation of privacy with regard to Internet use. Management has the ability and right to view employees' usage patterns and take action to assure that UTHSA Internet resources are devoted to maintaining the highest levels of productivity.

4. Internet usage must be conducted with truthfulness and honesty in personal and computer identification.

5. HOP, Policy 2.4.6, Communications, requires authorization to publicly speak on behalf of UTHSA. Employees participating in news groups or chat rooms in the course of business must include a disclaimer in the comments similar to the following: "This contains the thoughts and opinions of (employee name) and does not represent official UTHSA policy."

6. Accessing, posting, or sharing any racist sexist, misogynist, xenophobic, threatening, obscene, or otherwise objectionable material (i.e., visual, textual, or auditory entity) is strictly prohibited.

7. The Internet should not be used for any personal monetary interests or gain.

8. The UTHSA reserves the right to monitor and/or throttle excessive resource usage impacting access to this shared resource.

9. Users must not intentionally use the Internet facilities to disable, impair, or overload performance of any computer system or network, or to circumvent any system intended to protect the privacy or security of another user.

V. Definitions

There are no defined terms used in this Policy.

VI. Related References

There are no related documents associated with this Policy.

VII. Review and Approval History

The approving authority of this policy is the University Executive Committee.

Effective Date	Action Taken	Approved By	Approved Date
06/2000	Policy Origination		
07/2019	Policy Revision		
05/2023	Policy Review		