

## Comment from Singer, Katie

This is a Comment on the **Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (ATBCB) Proposed Rule: Information and Communication Technology Standards and Guidelines**

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Due May 28 2015, at 11:59 PM ET

### Comment

I am the author of An Electronic Silent Spring (Steiner Books, 2014), about the health and environmental effects of exposure to extremely low frequency (ELF) and radiofrequency (RF) radiation, also called electromagnetic radiation (EMR). My website, [www.electronicsilentspring.com](http://www.electronicsilentspring.com), posts frequent updates on this topic.

I write with concern for electronic interference experienced by people with medical implants. According to NIH estimates, in year 2000, 8-10% of the American population had some kind of implant (i.e. a cardiac pacemaker, insulin pump, deep brain stimulator, cochlear implant).

Interference from exposure to common electronics (a mobile phone; a wireless charger; Wi-Fi; cellular antennas; broadcasting antennas; electric or hybrid cars' braking systems; other newer-model cars; metal detectors in malls; electric cautery tools; wireless medical equipment such as heart monitors; a wireless, transmitting utility meter; multiples of these devices or two or more implants within one person...can cause medical implants to reprogram or shut off.

Physicians and patients have little awareness of the situation, which can certainly be life-threatening.

I've heard stories of people getting a deep brain stimulator (DBS), then reading Medtronic's manual on their return from the hospital--and learning that if they ever use a cell phone again, they've got to keep it at least 20" from their head and trunk. I've heard of people getting a DBS, then getting into their Prius--and having their implant shut off at every stop (while the computer signals the battery to recharge and emits magnetic fields that signal the DBS to shut off).

No agency tracks medical implants or regulates patients' experience of electronic interference.

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### Submitter Information

**Submitter Name:**

Katie Singer

**Country:**

United States

**State or Province:**

NM

**Category:**

Individual

As schools, libraries, parks, grocery stores, government offices and other areas of public accomodation (not to mention municipal infrastructure) increasingly install transmitting equipment (i.e. Wi-Fi routers, iPads, "smart" utility meters, cellular antennas, etc.), the risks to people with medical implants will also increase. Of course, the general public will also be at increasing risk as people with implants drive cars and operate other equipment that could cause their implant to malfunction.

We need to admit we've got a problem.

We need to halt installation of all new electronics until we figure out how to protect people with implants (and the general public) from electronic interference.

We need massive education of physicians, implant patients and the general public.

On April 7, 2015, I gave a talk about these issues, "Aiming to First Do No Harm: The Education of Electronics Users," at Colorado Chautauqua in Boulder, Colorado. Here is the text and audio recording of my talk.

<http://www.electronicssilentspring.com/aiming-to-first-do-no-harm/>

I also submit a link to my website's Intro Packet on medical implants.

<http://www.electronicssilentspring.com/primers/medical-implants/>

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Singer

[www.electronicssilentspring.com](http://www.electronicssilentspring.com)