Title of Article: The Health risks of Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM): Perceptions of health professionals and radiation experts in Ogun State, Nigeria

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Abstract: The use of Global System of Mobile Communication (GSM) is becoming widespread in Nigeria and other parts of the world. The arrival of this sophisticated technology, which has turned the world into a global village, has, however, been greeted with heated debates on its possible health hazards. This study utilizes evidence from literature and responses to questionnaire and in-depth interviews among health professionals, microwave telecommunication experts as well as health radiation experts in Ogun State, Nigeria. The results show two rather opposing schools of thought. On the one hand, there are those who share the view that the radiation emitted from handsets and base stations constitutes serious health hazards, while on the other hand, there are also those who argue that the radiations are so minimal and, as such, do not constitute any health hazards and that there is no proof of any harmful effects of GSM use. While the health radiation experts and majority of the health professionals share the former view, the latter view is shared by the micro-wave telecommunication experts. Thirty percent of the health professionals had no idea. This controversy calls for more independent investigation on this subject while necessary precautions should be taken in the mean time.

Keywords: Health, GSM, mobile phones, radiation, risks, Nigeria