

Model Tobacco-Free Policy for Healthcare Facilities

Purpose

According to the U.S. Surgeon General's Report of 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency of 1992, the South Carolina Clean Indoor Act of 1990, and the Federal Pro-Children Act of 1994, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke are hazardous to the health of human beings, especially children, elderly and pregnant mothers. As providers of healthcare services, preventing the use of tobacco products is consistent with our mission to improve the health of our community. This healthcare facility will provide a 100% tobacco-free environment. We recognize that tobacco in any form is a major cause of preventable disease and death in this state and country. It has also been acknowledged as a fire hazard.

Thus, the use of all tobacco-containing or tobacco-derived products, smokeless tobacco (snuff, chewing tobacco, dip, snus), e-cigarettes, and other tobacco or non-FDA-approved cessation products are prohibited. It does not apply to nicotine replacement therapy products (gum, patch, lozenge, inhaler), which help tobacco users with cessation efforts.

Goals

The goal of this policy is to provide a tobacco-free environment for all employees, patients, visitors, and contractors within its facilities, vehicles, grounds, and at all sponsored events. This goal will be achieved through efforts designed to:

- Exhibit tobacco-free behavior;
- Eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) and vaping toxins;
- Promote and provide access to smoking and vaping cessation counseling and/or referral services.

Procedures

This facility will:

- Prohibit the use and/or possession of all tobacco products, alternative nicotine products or paraphernalia including, but not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, smokeless tobacco, and snuff by all students, staff, and visitors while on the property and in any facility vehicles.
- Prohibit the sale of all tobacco products.
- Display appropriate signage in all areas (facilities, grounds, and vehicles), and provide the policy in writing (contracts, orientation manuals, performance evaluations, etc.).
- Incorporate the use of the "Clinical Practice Guideline for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence" into the patient screening process.

Enforcement

This healthcare facility will enforce this policy and determine appropriate disciplinary actions similar to enforcement steps for other policies for the facility.

Education and Assistance

Facility leadership/management will be responsible for assuring employees and the public are aware of the new policy and provide assistance for compliance by:

- Providing reimbursement and other incentives for participation in smoking cessation programs;
- Providing coverage of smoking cessation programs through the employee health insurance plan.

Tobacco Industry Marketing or Sponsorship

This healthcare facility will not accept any contributions or gifts, money or materials from the tobacco industry or related companies. Also, this healthcare facility will not participate in any type of functions that are funded by the tobacco industry. In addition, any gear or clothing that advertises tobacco use or tobacco products will not be allowed on worksite grounds.