

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 Air Act of 1990, and the Federal Pro-Children Act of 1994, tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke (environmental tobacco 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, smoke-free environment.

Goals

The goal of this policy is to provide and enforce a 100% tobacco-free, smoke-free environment for all employees, patients, visitors, and contractors within its facilities, vehicles, grounds and at all sponsored events. This goal will be achieved by the leadership/management being supportive in:

- Exhibiting healthy behavior for all employees, contractors, and visitors;
- Providing appropriate tobacco cessation educational materials; and
- Providing access to cessation counseling and/or referral services.

Procedures

This facility will:

- Display appropriate signage in all areas (facilities, grounds, and vehicles), and provide policy in writing (contracts, orientation manuals, performance evaluations, etc.) to all employees, contractors, and visitors.
- Incorporate the use of the "Clinical Practice Guideline for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence" into the patient screening process.
- Prohibit the sale of all tobacco products.
- Prohibit the use of tobacco products by employees, patients, visitors and contractors while on the grounds, in any buildings and in any facility vehicles;

Enforcement

This healthcare facility, _____ will enforce this policy by determining appropriate disciplinary actions for violators (employees, patients, visitors and contractors). Actions may be inclusive of the following:

- Employees: verbal reprimands, written notification placed in personnel file, suspension, and mandatory enrollment in a tobacco education program or voluntary enrollment in a cessation program.
- Patients: verbal reprimands to comply with healthcare policy, and possible denial of services.
- Visitors: verbal requests to not use tobacco products, request to leave property, and prosecution for disorderly conduct after repeated offenses.
- Contractors: written notification of policy violation, possible cancellation of contracts, request to leave property.

Education and Assistance

As a healthcare facility, all areas of leadership/management will be responsible for assuring employees, patients, contractors, and visitors are aware about 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.