



## Colorado Hospital Association

### Policy Statement

#### TOBACCO FREE HOSPITALS

Colorado hospitals are committed to the promotion of quality healthcare, which includes the prevention of disease. With the commitment to promotion of quality healthcare comes the responsibility of providing a safe and healthy environment. The use of tobacco products is the number one source of premature death and disability in the United States, and the Surgeon General has warned that there is no safe level of secondhand tobacco smoke.

Because of these health risks and the mission of hospitals as healthcare organizations, the Colorado Hospital Association recommends tobacco-free hospitals to better serve the interests of the health and welfare of patients, staff, employees and visitors.

As the statewide representative of Colorado hospitals, the Colorado Hospital Association is committed to the benefits that come from a tobacco-free environment. To that end, CHA implemented a tobacco-free policy on its Greenwood Village campus on Feb. 1, 2008. CHA joins 19 Colorado hospitals that have implemented a tobacco-free policy, and 15 more that have committed to implementing such policies.

To achieve the goal of becoming tobacco-free, CHA recommends that each Colorado hospital:

- Create and implement a tobacco-free hospital campus policy to provide a safe and healthy environment for all of its patients, employees, volunteers and visitors.
- Present a positive example to the public by making no tobacco use a normal practice on hospital property and among hospital staff.
- Assist both patients and employees who wish to quit using tobacco products.
- Be a leader in the community by encouraging tobacco free environments.

CHA will work with all Colorado hospitals to implement and maintain tobacco-free campuses with technical support and assistance.

CHA encourages Colorado hospitals to take a stand as healthcare leaders and meet their responsibility to prevent and decrease illness for their community members and their employees. A tobacco-free campus helps make a strong statement about values and commitment to health and healthcare.

*Adopted by CHA Board of Trustees May 23, 2008.*