

# Riverview Medical Center

**A DIVISION OF MERIDIAN HOSPITALS CORPORATION**

**ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY**

**TITLE: SMOKEFREE ENVIRONMENT**

**ADMIN. #35**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: NOVEMBER 2000**

## Policy

It is the policy of Riverview Medical Center to maintain a 100% smokefree environment for the preservation and protection of the health of our patients, our visitors, and our staff.

## Purpose

The Medical Center is dedicated to the promotion of a healthy smokefree environment and to:

- A. Comply with New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services regulations prohibiting smoking in health care facilities (P.L. 1981, Chapter 319, and NJAC 8:43 G-5.2 (L))
- B. Ensure a healthy, comfortable and safe environment for patients, visitors and staff
- C. Provide leadership, example and guidance in health promotion

## Procedure

Signs are prominently displayed at all public entrances to the Medical Center and its affiliates which advise smoking is prohibited in all areas of the medical center and in all peripheral buildings owned and operated by the Medical Center.

Rules specific to patients, visitors, and staff are as follows:

### **A. Inpatients**

1. Inpatients are prohibited from smoking.
  2. All patients admitted to the Medical Center will be assessed for history of tobacco use.
  3. Those patients indicating a history of current tobacco use will be offered smoking cessation education.
  4. Behavioral Health inpatients residing in Booker may smoke if their physician believes it is necessary for their therapy and smoking alternatives have been refused by the patient. These patients may smoke in the designated area adjacent to the southeast corner of Booker Health Center. The physician must order this permission and the patient must be accompanied by a staff member.
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## **B. Visitors/Outpatients**

1. Visitors may not smoke in any area of the Medical Center or its affiliates. Visitor smoking areas are the patio to right of Blaisdell Entrance, and marked area at top of Emergency Department entrance ramp.
2. Outpatients at the Behavioral Health Center are permitted to smoke in the designated smoking area adjacent to Booker Health Center.

## **C. Staff**

1. Employees, physicians, volunteers, and students may not smoke in any area of the Medical Center or its affiliates.
2. To facilitate a smokefree environment, Riverview Medical Center will offer the following:
  - Staff smoking cessation courses
  - Ongoing stress management programs and counseling through the Employee Assistance Program
  - Pharmacotherapies for smoking cessation (including Nicotine replacement)
3. Staff smoking is confined to designated smoking area to right of entrance to Blaisdell. Smokers must remain at distance from the door so smoke will not be detected in the air by those using the entrance.

## **Compliance**

- A. Every employee, physician, and volunteer has the responsibility to abide by this policy and advise others (staff, visitors, patients, physicians, volunteers and vendors) to abide by the smokefree environment of the Medical Center.
- B. Every effort will be made to assist employees to comply with this policy. However, in the event a violation is observed, staff should advise the individual of the policy and request compliance. If the violation continues, the matter should be referred to the manager of the area or security for corrective action.
- C. Outside groups who utilize the Medical Center for meeting will be advised of this policy. Violation of the policy will rescind the approval for the group to utilize this facility.
- D. Appropriate signage will be maintained to communicate the Medical Center's commitment to a smoke-free environment.
- E. Pursuant to Chapter 319, New Jersey State Statute, anyone failing to comply with these smoking regulations may be subject to a fine.

## **References**

- A. Personnel Policy P:09:001 "Policy".
  - B. Personnel Policy G-701 "Work Rules, Discipline and Discharge".
  - C. Chapter 319, Public Laws of 1981.
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## Publication Status

Revised, supersedes Administrative Policy #35 dated March 2000.

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President, Medical Staff

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