

Tobacco Free Hospital Forum

Hospital Associations

Missouri Hospital Association: “Just as each hospital is different, each hospital will implement the ban to reflect the unique needs of the facility,” said Marc D. Smith, MHA president. “As leaders of the health care community, it’s important that we demonstrate positive health behaviors and take a strong stand against the use of a proven health hazard. We plan to use this opportunity to educate our communities about the dangers of tobacco use.” The ban on tobacco products, originally announced in May, marks a voluntarily implementation by the hospital community that is nearly a year in advance of a state regulation restricting tobacco use on hospital campuses.

Maryland Hospital Association: MHA developed the tool-kit outlined below as a resource for hospitals who are planning to implement a smoke-free campus-wide policy. The tool-kit is comprised of resources collected from Maryland hospitals that have already instituted policies, and from hospitals and hospital associations across the country. MHA looks forward to helping your hospital succeed in implementing a smoke-free policy. Please contact [Jessica Ronan](#) with any questions or suggestions. *Note: this website's toolkit has extensive information and sample letters and articles to address to implement.*

http://www.mdhospitals.org/mha/Community_Health_Resources/Smoke_Free_Hospital_Campuses.shtml

Iowa Hospital Association: The Iowa Hospital Association made a call to its members to prohibit smoking on their campuses across the state. Hospitals in Cedar Rapids, Sioux City, Des Moines, Waterloo, and the Quad Cities already have adopted smoke-free campus policies or plan to do so in the near future. The Iowa Hospital Association has also created a toolkit to assist hospitals who want to go tobacco-free.

Kansas Hospital Association: Mercy Health System of Kansas has joined more than 80 other hospitals across Kansas in an effort to become tobacco-free, with the encouragement of the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA). Tobacco use in and around hospitals poses health and safety risks for patients, employees and visitors. While Kansas currently has a statute banning smoking in medical care facilities, as health care advocates, we would like to expand that ban to all hospital property. Kansas Hospitals Going Tobacco-Free - 85 as of Oct. 16, 2006.

Wisconsin Hospital Association: WHA Recommends 100% of Hospitals Become Tobacco-Free by November 2007. Press release. MADISON (October 24, 2006) ----- Lighting up in or near a hospital may be a thing of the past by this time next year. The Wisconsin Hospital Association Board of Directors is asking its 132 member hospitals to implement tobacco-free campus policies by November 2007. Roughly half of Wisconsin's 132 hospitals now have a campus-wide tobacco-free policy; another 50 are tobacco free in the hospital building. The goal 100 percent of the hospitals in Wisconsin to be tobacco free within one year. Hospitals are already routinely offering tobacco cessation counseling to their patients and employees. Many also offer tobacco-cessation classes in the community. It's all part of their mission, according to Mary Starman-Harrison, president of SSM Wisconsin in Madison and WHA Board Chair. "Hospitals treat illness, but we are just as dedicated to prevention and improving the overall health of the communities we serve," she said.

Ohio Hospital Association: Twenty-one hospital presidents have asked the local hospital association to draft a policy that would outlaw smoking on hospital campuses. They could vote to accept the policy as early as September. The policy likely will apply to anyone on the hospital's grounds -- employees, patients and their visitors. It also would urge hospitals to help their workers stop smoking by offering programs and other tools. By working together, hospital leaders believe it will be easier to implement the policy. It also would eliminate any competitive threat that could arise if only a few hospitals went 100 percent smoke-free.

"I think the hospitals want to make sure they are setting a good example," said Bryan Bucklew, executive director of the Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association, which is writing the policy. Establishing a tobacco-free environment in hospitals sets a clear example of good health practices; puts employees, patients and visitors first by providing a healthy, tobacco-free atmosphere; results in lower clean-up costs; encourages both employees and patients to quit tobacco use and lowers long term health care costs. Many hospitals across Ohio have already implemented or are considering adopting policies to make their campuses tobacco-free. The following resources are offered to assist hospitals with their efforts to ensure the healthiest environment for patients, employees and visitors.

South Carolina Hospital Association: The South Carolina Hospital Association is encouraging all member hospitals to go tobacco free, campus wide by November 15, 2007, the date of the Great American Smoke Out. Already 25 hospitals report that they have implemented campus wide policies and many others are working toward the Nov. 15 target date.

North Carolina Hospital Association: The Duke Endowment has awarded the NC Hospital Foundation a grant of \$600,000 over three years to encourage and support all hospitals in North Carolina to become 100 percent tobacco-free campus wide by 2009. The NC Hospital Foundation, an affiliate of the North Carolina Hospital Association (NCHA), has partnered with NC Prevention Partners to assist hospitals in this policy initiative. NC Prevention Partners will develop resource materials, provide technical assistance and support, and conduct trainings with hospitals throughout the state.