

High Point Regional Health System

Date Approved: May 2005

Subject: Tobacco-Free Environment

Standard: The Board of Trustees for High Point Regional Health System is committed to the provision of quality health care and wellness. Consistent with this aim, High Point Regional Health System acknowledges its responsibility to provide a safe, healthy environment for all patients, employees, physicians and staff.

Purpose: To reduce health related risks associated with tobacco products to patients, visitors and staff. To promote and encourage healthy lifestyles throughout our communities.

Policy:

1. The use of all tobacco products is prohibited on the campus of High Point Regional health System, including its outpatient facilities, business entities, vehicles, parking lots/decks and on sidewalks adjacent to Health System property.
2. For buildings/properties that HPRHS leases, are owned by more than one company and for buildings/properties that have common areas, tobacco products will be prohibited in buildings and property associated with the High Point Regional health system lease.
3. The term "tobacco" includes, but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff and pipe smoking.
4. Employees of HPRHS will be expected to:
 - a. Adhere to the tobacco restrictions outlined in this policy.
 - b. Inform patients and visitors observed smoking of the HPRHS tobacco-free policy and provide them with an information card describing the rationale for the policy and resources available to help them quit.Employees who fail to comply with these expectations will be subject to the disciplinary action policy (see policy: Corrective Action Program).
5. At the time of patient admission, the Registered Nurse will determine if the patient is a tobacco user and document on the admission assessment.

6. The Registered Nurse will inform the patient who uses tobacco of the HPRHS policy, provide information on tobacco cessation and document on the admission assessment.
7. For patients expressing the desire to discontinue tobacco use, the Registered Nurse will make a referral for tobacco cessation by entering "QuitSmart Referral" under the consult/order section of the documentation system.
8. For patients expressing refusal to comply with the tobacco-free policy, the Registered Nurse notifies the Charge Nurse/Unit Coordinator and Nursing Supervisor.
9. Patients leaving the nursing unit to use tobacco products are without physician permission and against medical advice and doing so are strictly at the patients' own risk and may be grounds for discharge or transfer.
10. The attending physician will assess and discuss the need for nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) with the patient and if indicated, write an order for NRT.
11. The attending physician with patients being admitted for elective procedures will discuss the tobacco-free environment policy with the patient prior to admission.
12. A terminally ill cancer patient on the Oncology Care Unit may be permitted to smoke in a designated area if the following conditions are met:
 - a. Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) has been attempted, but failed.
 - b. The attending physician writes an order that allows the patient to smoke.
 - c. The patient is able to be taken to the designated area (for this situation) to smoke.Smoking is never permitted in the patient room.
13. Enforcement of the Tobacco-Free Environment policy is the responsibility of every HPRHS employee. The Safety/Security Department will be expected to respond to requests from any employee when managing individuals refusing to comply with this policy.
14. Individuals refusing to comply with the Tobacco-Free Environment policy may be asked to leave or be escorted from HPRHS property.