

## TITLE

**TOBACCO AND SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENTS**SCOPE

Provincial

## DOCUMENT #

1134

## APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Clinical Operations Executive Committee

## INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE

April 1, 2011

## SPONSOR

Population, Public, &amp; Indigenous Health

## REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE

April 26, 2017

## PARENT DOCUMENT TITLE, TYPE AND NUMBER

Not applicable

## SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE

April 26, 2020

**NOTE:** The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

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**OBJECTIVES**

- To prohibit the consumption of **tobacco** and **tobacco-like products**, and prevent exposure to second and third-hand smoke at Alberta Health Services (AHS) properties.
- To ensure the well-being of **patients** who consume tobacco and related products is addressed while receiving care from AHS and/or contracted service providers.
- To encourage the utilization of AHS' smoking cessation programs and supports available for patients and **AHS representatives**.

**PRINCIPLES**

Alberta Health Services is committed to providing patients, **families**, visitors, and AHS representatives with a safe and healthy environment, including one that is tobacco and smoke-free. For the reasons outlined in the *Tobacco and Smoke-Free Environments Statement of Purpose* (Appendix A), tobacco and tobacco-like product consumption is prohibited in and on all **AHS property**, except as provided for in this Policy.

AHS representatives have a shared responsibility to ensure AHS becomes and remains a tobacco and smoke-free environment, and therefore shall not facilitate patient consumption of tobacco or tobacco-like products.

**APPLICABILITY**

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

## ELEMENTS

### 1. Tobacco and Tobacco-Like Product Consumption

- 1.1 Tobacco and tobacco-like product consumption shall not be permitted at any AHS property, including the property's grounds, except as provided for in Section 2 of this Policy.
- 1.2 Individuals who leave AHS property to consume tobacco or tobacco-like products should, when reasonably possible, take reasonable efforts to protect patients, families, AHS representatives, and visitors from third-hand smoke exposure (e.g. hand/face washing, removing an outer layer of clothing).

### 2. Exceptions

- 2.1 Traditional Aboriginal spiritual and cultural practices and ceremonies involving the burning of tobacco or a tobacco-like product shall only be permitted in **designated spaces**, as determined by the **Property Manager** in consultation with the Indigenous Health Program. Traditional Aboriginal spiritual and cultural practices and ceremonies involving burning tobacco or a tobacco-like product shall be held in accordance with the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act* its regulation, and municipal bylaws.
- 2.2 Sites may request special considerations for tobacco and tobacco-like product usage by patients by submitting an *Application for Special Considerations* to the Tobacco Reduction Program. However, any special considerations must still be compliant with the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act*, its regulation, and municipal bylaws.

### 3. Comfort Measures and Cessation Supports

- 3.1 Patients should be offered nicotine replacement therapy and/or medication, as medically appropriate, as a temporary comfort measure while on AHS property to support tobacco or tobacco-like product withdrawal symptoms.
- 3.2 AHS shall offer ongoing tobacco and smoking cessation supports for AHS patients and AHS employees who request support. AHS patients and employees shall be made aware of smoking cessation supports that are available to them.

### 4. Home Visits

- 4.1 Patients, families, and others in a home receiving services by employees, or individuals acting on behalf of AHS, shall be requested to refrain from smoking tobacco or a tobacco-like product in the home two (2) hours prior to, and during, a home visit.
- 4.2 If there is not compliance with section 4.1, alternative service options may be explored.

- 4.3 AHS representatives going to a patient's home who consume tobacco or tobacco-like product in between visits should, when reasonably possible, take appropriate efforts after consumption of such products to protect patients, families, AHS representatives, and visitors from third-hand smoke exposure (e.g. hand/face washing, removing an outer layer of clothing).

## 5. Compliance

- 5.1 Enforcement of this Policy is a joint responsibility of AHS Leadership, Protective Services, and all other AHS representatives.
- 5.2 Any person found using tobacco or tobacco-like products on AHS property contrary to this policy shall be notified of AHS' commitment to a tobacco and smoke-free environment.
- 5.3 Any person who continues to consume tobacco or tobacco like products on AHS property after verbal notification may be subject to penalty including, but not limited to:
- a) fines or citations issued under the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act* (Alberta) and applicable municipal bylaws, when the consumption is in violation with their established limits;
  - b) citations under the *Trespass to Premises Act* (Alberta); and/or
  - c) disciplinary action in accordance with AHS' *Progressive Discipline* Procedure and applicable collective agreements.

## DEFINITIONS

**AHS Property** means all grounds, facilities, work vehicles, and personal vehicles on AHS' grounds or parking lots in an area owned, operated, leased, or at least 50% funded by AHS.

AHS property includes, but is not limited to, hospitals, community health centres, long term care facilities, and administrative buildings. Property is inclusive of all buildings, sidewalks, gardens, lawns, and parking structures on the property.

**AHS Representative** means Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers, as necessary).

**Designated Space** means a chapel, prayer room, sacred space, or other area designated by the Property Manager in compliance with the *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act* (Alberta) and regulation for holding a traditional Aboriginal spiritual or cultural practice or ceremony which involves burning non-recreational tobacco or other substances.

**Family(ies)** means one or more individuals identified by the patient as an important support, and who the patient wishes to be included in any encounters with the health care system, including, but not limited to, family members, legal guardians, friends and informal caregivers.

**Patient** means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

**Property Manager** means the most senior individual(s) with accountability for all decisions within the property.

**Tobacco** means any product composed in whole or in part of tobacco leaves including, but not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, snuff, chewing/dipping tobacco, tobacco extract, flavoured tobacco, and shisha/hookah, but does not include any regulated Nicotine Replacement Therapy product.

**Tobacco-like product** means a product smoked or otherwise consumed in a manner similar to a tobacco product. Tobacco-like products include, but are not limited to, e-cigarettes or other electronic smoking/vaping products, hookah, marijuana that is administered by smoking or vaporizing, and any other substance that is smoked or vaped, but does not include any regulated Nicotine Replacement Therapy products that are consumed in a manner similar to a tobacco product (e.g. an inhaler).

## REFERENCES

- Appendix A: *Tobacco and Smoke-Free Environments Statement of Principles*
- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents
  - *Progressive Discipline Procedure (#1116-05)*
- Alberta Health Services Forms
  - *Application for Special Considerations*
- Alberta Health Services Resources
  - *Guide for Special Considerations*
  - *Leading with Values*
  - *Tobacco Free Futures*
  - *Tobacco Reduction Implementation Plan*
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents
  - *Alberta Building Code*
  - *Alberta Fire Code*
  - *Tobacco and Smoking Reduction Act (Alberta) and regulation*
  - *Trespass to Premises Act (Alberta)*

## VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action Taken
April 26, 2017	Revised
June 01, 2017	Non-substantive change

## APPENDIX A

**Tobacco, Tobacco-Like Products and Vapour/Smoke-Free Environments  
Statement of Principles****1. Promoting the well-being of patients, families, AHS Representatives, and the public**

Tobacco consumption is the leading preventable cause of disease, disability, and premature death in Alberta. The consumption of tobacco and tobacco-like products is also a threat to the health and well-being of Albertans. Enhancing the overall health and wellness, as well as limiting the suffering, of individual patients, families, visitors, and AHS representatives are important goals of the healthcare system. The AHS value of Safety includes the active promotion of safety and wellness for our communities and patients, and workplace safety and wellness for AHS representatives. To do this, AHS needs to ensure all AHS property are the healthiest environments they can be.

**2. Avoiding harm**

Alberta Health Services' job is to protect people's health. Environments that are not completely vapour/smoke-free expose patients, families, visitors, and AHS representatives to second and third-hand smoke or other harmful by-products, which are harmful to health. Exposure to others using tobacco or tobacco-like products can be potentially harmful to a patient's recovery and to those who work in areas of exposure. Tobacco consumption also poses environmental harms to AHS property. Patients, families, AHS representatives, and the public should not be exposed to harm where it is reasonably avoidable.

**3. Respecting autonomy & promoting patient-centred care**

Tobacco consumption and nicotine addiction are complex health issues. It can be hard to go without a cigarette, particularly during stressful times when an individual or loved one may be in need of care. Individuals are responsible for making choices about their own health, including whether they wish to stop using tobacco or not. As AHS engages patients and families as full partners in their own care, individuals should be provided the opportunity to make choices about their own health and offered appropriate health information to be able to make such choices. To best support patients who consume tobacco or tobacco-like products, appropriate Nicotine Replacement Therapy and medications are available, as are resources about the health risks of using tobacco. Patients choosing to quit tobacco or tobacco-like products consumption will be supported in doing so through the provision of appropriate Nicotine Replacement Therapy and medication (as medically appropriate), and referral to AlbertaQuits cessation services.

#### 4. Promoting fairness

Individuals should not be unfairly burdened with the consequences of circumstances over which they have little control. Tobacco-free environments help protect those patients, visitors and AHS representatives who do not wish to expose themselves to smoke or other by-products, who have quit, or who are trying to quit as seeing people smoking or vaping (e.g. e-cigarettes) can be harmful to those recovering.