

REGIONS HOSPITAL

POLICY/PROCEDURE

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Subject

No. PC:12:25

TOBACCO PRODUCTS USE

Effective Date
January 1, 2004

ISSUED BY: ADMINISTRATION

Date: January 1, 2004

Supersedes:

No.

Dated:

PURPOSE:

Regions Hospital's mission is to improve the health of our patients and community by providing high-quality health care that meets the needs of all people. Our vision is to be the patient-centered hospital of choice for our community.

The health hazards of tobacco are well known within the medical community. Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable illness and death in Minnesota and across the nation. Allowing the use of tobacco products in and around our campus does not portray the image of our hospital as a health care leader in the community and does not promote a healthy environment for our patients or employees. Assisting our employees, our patients and our visitors to be tobacco-free is consistent with our mission to improve the health of the community we serve.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all patients, visitors and employees of Regions Hospital and RHSC.

POLICY:

1. The sale or use of tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, pipes, etc.) is prohibited in or on all Regions Hospital owned or leased buildings, grounds, parking lots, ramps, plazas or vehicles. No exceptions to this policy will be granted.
2. Employees will not be allowed to use tobacco products during their paid work time (breaks) and are **strongly encouraged** not to use tobacco products during their unpaid work time (lunch). Smoke odors at any time are not allowed. (Cross reference: Human Resources Policy 60:10:04)
3. Employees are prohibited from using tobacco products on the campus and adjacent property (perimeter sidewalks) anytime during their work shift.
4. Signs will be posted at strategic locations around the facility to notify staff, visitors and patients of this policy.
5. Patients will be informed of this policy upon arrival or as soon thereafter as is medically appropriate.
6. Patients will be informed of the smoking policy on admission through the distribution of the patient handbook.
7. No physician with privileges at Regions Hospital may write orders for a patient to use tobacco products on Regions campus.
8. All employees are authorized to communicate this policy with courtesy and diplomacy to other employees, patients and visitors.

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9. Department supervisors and managers are expected to educate employees about this policy and ensure that the policy is implemented and enforced. Monitoring of this policy will be shared with Regions Hospital security. At Regions facilities where security officers are not present, facility managers and supervisors are expected to monitor and enforce this policy.
10. Use of tobacco products is prohibited in all company vehicles.
11. Compliance with this policy is expected and employees who violate this policy will be subject to current disciplinary procedures.
12. Certain religious groups may request to burn tobacco as part of their religious / spiritual practices. This will be allowed in the hospital chapel with prior approval from Pastoral Services. Pastoral Services staff must be present during the burning ceremony.