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UAB Hospital Sets Smoking Policy

Birmingham, Ala. – UAB Hospital will soon be a smoke-free environment. The ban includes all employees, patients and visitors to the hospital. After April 11, those who violate the rule could face a fine as high as \$500. UAB Hospital’s ban on smoking takes effect April 11.

“UAB Hospital is committed to providing the healthiest environment possible for its patients, visitors, and employees,” says Mary Nash, Ph.D., executive director of UAB Hospital. “We chose this course of action after careful consideration and consultation with peer hospitals and our own faculty and staff. As a healthcare institution, we feel this is the right thing to do.”

Besides the health risks, UAB officials say smoking within the hospital raises security concerns and poses a fire hazard. And, discarded cigarette butts and ashes make a mess.

For employees still trying to kick the habit, UAB will provide access to nicotine support groups, nicotine replacement therapy at a reduced rate compared to local drug stores and referral to smoking cessation classes.

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