



Team Name: Home Care Team Lead: Director - Home Care, Palliative Care & Seniors Approved by: Regional Lead – Community & Continuous Care	Reference Number: CLI.5410.PL.006 Program Area: Home Care Policy Section: Access
Issue Date: July 30, 2021 Review Date: Revision Date:	Subject: Smoking/Vaping: Cigarette, Cigar and e-cigarette use in the Home

Use of pre-printed documents: Users are to refer to the electronic version of this document located on the Southern Health-Santé Sud Health Provider Site to ensure the most current document is consulted.

POLICY SUBJECT:

Smoking/Vaping: Cigarette, Cigar and e-cigarette use in the Home

PURPOSE:

- To provide a safe and healthy workplace for Direct Service Staff working in the community.
- To define products that can produce harmful Second Hand Smoke (SHS).
- To communicate the requirements for a safe work environment to Home Care clients.

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitations (EL-02) Treatment of Clients
 Executive Limitations (EL-03) Treatment of Staff

POLICY:

Second Hand Smoke (SHS) is dangerous and can affect the health of non-smokers. As a provider of health care for the community, Southern Health-Santé Sud establishes and maintains the safest environment possible to deliver health care services when caring for clients in their homes who smoke or vaporize.

DEFINITIONS:

Second hand smoke: mix of smoke from a burning cigarette, pipe or cigar, plus the smoke exhaled by the person smoking.

e-cigarette: a product or device, whether or not it resembles a cigarette, containing a power source and heating element designed to vaporize (referred to as “vaping”) an e-substance for inhalation or release into the air.

e-substance: a solid, liquid or gas that, on being heated, produces a vapour for use in an e-cigarette, regardless of whether the solid, liquid or gas contains nicotine, and that is not a controlled substance within the meaning of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.

Workplace: means any building, site, workshop, structure, or any other premises or location whether indoors or outdoors in which one or more workers are engaged in work.

Direct Service Staff: A Home Care Attendant, Direct Service Nurse or any employee of Southern Health-Santé Sud - Home Care.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- There are more than 4000 chemicals found in second hand smoke and 70 chemicals that cause cancer.
- Second hand smoke contains at least twice the nicotine and tar as the smoke inhaled by a smoker.
- Direct Service Staff can be exposed to vapour that is exhaled by users of e-cigarettes. The health effects to non-users to second-hand vapour exposure are still unknown. While the risks to vaporize are expected to be much lower than tobacco smoke, Health Canada recommends that users be cautious around non-users and youth.
- Air purifiers and ventilation systems cannot remove all the poisons, toxins, gases and particles found in second hand smoke.
- Smoke from a cigarette can stay in a room for hours, even with an open window. Many of the toxic chemicals remain in the air and the carpets, curtains, furniture and clothes.

PROCEDURE:

1. The Case Coordinator/Direct Service Nurse completes the Working Alone Safety Assessment and Safe Visit Plan (WASA) (CLI.5410.SG.002.FORM.01) for all clients assessed for Home Care.
2. If “smoking/vaping” is identified, determine what type of smoking client participates in and record information on WASA.
 - cigarette
 - cigar
 - e-cigarette
3. Advise client that in order to reduce the potential health risk to Direct Service Staff due to second hand smoke:
 - 3.1. the client is asked not to smoke/vape one hour prior to Direct Service Staff scheduled visit,
 - 3.2. the client is asked not to smoke/vape during the scheduled visit,
 - 3.3. ensure family member, guests or other individuals do not smoke/vape one hour prior or during scheduled visit,
 - 3.4. ventilate the area where care provided if the smell of smoke prevails.
4. Complete a Safe Visit Plan for smoking using the Home Care - Smoking/Vaping: Cigarette, Cigar and e-cigarette use in the Home (CLI.5410.PL.006.SD.01),

5. Direct Service Staff report any concerns regarding client's compliance with the smoking/vaping policy.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:

[CLI.5410.PL.006.SD.01](#) Home Care – Smoking - Cigarette, Cigar and e-cigarette

REFERENCES:

CLI.5410.SG.002.FORM.01 Working Alone Safety Assessment and Safe Visit Plan

ORG.1010.PL.003 Smoke Free Environment

WRHA Please Ensure a Healthy, Smoke-Free Environment for Your Health Care and Social Service Worker

WRHA Orientation Manual Revised January 2007-Summary of WRHA Smoke Free Policy
The Harmful Effects of Second –hand Smoke/Health LinkBC File 30a
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/second-hand-smoke>

Smoking in the Home when the Home is Also a Workplace/Ontario Health Promotion E-Bulletin
<https://www.ohpe.ca/node/180>

Second-hand smoke exposure and mitigation strategies among home visitation workers
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3388163/>