



Team Name: Tobacco Working Group Team Lead: Public Health-Healthy Living Approved by: Senior Leadership Team	Reference Number: ORG.1010.PL.003 Program Area: Administration Policy Section: General
Issue Date: October 27 2015 Review Date: Revision Date:	Subject: Smoke Free Environment

**POLICY SUBJECT:**

Smoke Free Environment

**PURPOSE:**

1. To abide by the provincial *Tobacco Control Act*.
2. To keep the occupants, contents and premises safe from fire dangers.
3. To ensure a safe and healthy environment for visitors, clients, residents and employees.
4. To assist in the improvement and maintenance of the health, comfort and well-being of all those who receive health services including all employees.
5. To assist clients and employees in tobacco reduction and smoking cessation through wellness initiatives and promote healthy lifestyles with the aim of preventing tobacco related illness.
6. To respect and accommodate to the traditional use of sacred tobacco and medicines for Aboriginal healing ceremonies within Southern Health-Santé Sud owned or leased facilities.
7. To recognize e-cigarettes and e-substances under the categorization of tobacco products thus subjecting them to the same restrictions as tobacco products.
8. To evolve the Southern Health-Santé Sud smoke free policy with the intent to become a smoke-free grounds in the future

**POLICY:**

Southern Health-Santé Sud, as a provider of health care for the community, has established and will maintain the safest and the most effective environment possible in which to deliver health care services. Therefore, smoking shall not be permitted by the public, patients, residents or employees and volunteers in owned or leased facilities, offices, clinics and/or vehicles. Southern Health-Santé Sud will ensure compliance with the *Non-Smokers Health Protection Amendment Act* and will limit exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke on Southern Health-Santé Sud property.

**DEFINITIONS:**

**Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs):** assigned areas on Southern Health-Santé Sud owned or leased property where individuals are allowed to smoke.

**Employee:** any staff employed by Southern Health-Santé Sud

**Property:** any area owned or leased by the Southern Health-Santé Sud.

**Secondhand Smoke:** smoke that is exhaled during the act of smoking that may be involuntarily inhaled by another individual.

**Smoke/Smoking:** any vapor substance that results from tobacco and/or tobacco products being burned; typically emitted during the act of smoking.

**Tobacco (products):** tobacco of any form that is used for consumption, including but not isolated to: cigarettes, e-cigarettes and e-substances (eg. "vaping"), cigars, pipes and spit tobacco (e.g., all forms of smokeless, dip, chew and snuff tobacco).

**Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapy:** pharmaceutical drugs (e.g., nicotine gum, nicotine oral inhaler, nicotine lozenge, nicotine patch, varenicline (champix) and bupropion (zyban)) used to assist individuals in reducing and/or quitting their smoking practices.

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Smoking shall not be permitted within any Southern Health-Santé Sud owned or leased facilities, offices, clinics and/or vehicles.
2. Smoking shall not be permitted within a minimum distance of 9 meters (30 feet) with respect to the exteriors of any Southern Health-Santé Sud owned or leased facilities, offices and/or clinics. If patient or resident safety is of immediate concern, an exception can be made, in which a selected number of designated smoking areas can be created but must be a minimum distance of 3 meters (10 feet) from any entrance, window and/or air intake.
3. All outdoor smoking sites shall be in compliance with the *Non-Smoker's Health Protection Amendment Act*.
4. It shall be the responsibility of each employee to ensure adherence to this policy. If difficulty is experienced in gaining the cooperation of patients, residents or visitors, then the employee's immediate supervisor should be called to assist with the situation. See the Resources for Clients.
5. Clients, family members and employees are expected to refrain from smoking while service providers are carrying out their duties in a client's home.
6. Clients and employees are encouraged to seek and access supportive measures to assist them in reducing and/or quitting their smoking practices.
7. Similar to the approach for fragrances and scents, smokers need to be aware that their smoking practices may introduce irritants and/or odors that may linger for 60 minutes or more (dependent on the environment) and can exacerbate the existing health conditions of patients, residents and/or employees and take steps to mitigate this.
8. Aboriginal healing ceremonies, including those that may involve the use of sacred medicines or sacred tobacco in a manner that produces smoke, shall be respected and supported across Southern Health-Santé Sud. Health Care Workers can consult Aboriginal Health Services on how to plan ceremonies to be respectful of all clients, employees and visitors.
9. Notification of this policy will be given to all clients receiving services through signage, documentation or other appropriate means. Following the principles of informed consent, employees are to discuss this policy with patients and/or residents to reduce their risk or if they choose to leave the facility in order to smoke.
10. Tobacco products shall not be sold on Southern Health-Santé Sud owned or leased property.

### **IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:**

Smoking behaviors have changed significantly over the years and as such, in order to stay relevant, Southern Health-Santé Sud's smoke-free policy is constantly in need of revision. While some of the Regional Health Authorities within Manitoba implement a smoke-free distance others are implementing smoke-free grounds. Amalgamation of Regional Health Authorities brought together two regions with different smoke free policies requiring a new Southern Health-Santé Sud smoke free policy.

In order to draft a smoke-free policy that could be successfully implemented within Southern Health-Santé Sud, the following steps were taken: (1) an environmental scan was conducted; (2) a literature review was carried out; (3) an assessment of the nation's best-practices took place; and (4) multiple stakeholder interviews were conducted. It was apparent from the stakeholder interviews that facilities are evolving at different rates and are in different stages with regards to their respective smoke-free policies. Additionally, the interviews allowed for the recognition that the physical lay out and structure of some facilities may present a challenge due to client safety issues. Acknowledging that the endorsement and implementation of a smoke free policy can be quite challenging, Southern Health-Santé Sud will seek to identify strategies to overcome such challenges. As part of this the employees' roles will be more clearly defined with respect to the smoke-free policy. Also, an emphasis will be placed upon improving the health literacy of the public, patients, residents, volunteers and employees with regards to tobacco use and more specifically the act of smoking.

In this revision, Southern Health-Santé Sud will enforce that smoking does not take place within a minimum distance of 9 meters (30 feet) with respect to the exterior of any Southern Health-Santé Sud owned or leased facilities, offices and/or clinics; the 9 meter distance being selected based off of the information collected from the four processes previously listed. An exemption to the policy may occur if patient or resident safety is of immediate concern, in which a select number of designated smoking areas (DSAs) can be created but must be a minimum distance of 3 meters (10 feet) from any entrance, window and/or air intake. It is the intention of Southern Health-Santé Sud to become a completely smoke-free environment in the future.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

[ORG.1010.PL.003.SD.01](#) Definitions of Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapy

[ORG.1010.PL.003.SD.02](#) Special Populations

[ORG.1010.PL.003.SD.03](#) Educational and Training Opportunities

[ORG.1010.PL.003.SD.04](#) Resources for Health Professionals

[ORG.1010.PL.003.SD.05](#) Resources for Clients

### **REFERENCES:**

Assembly of First Nations. (2002). *Don't Misuse Tobacco, Keep It Sacred: A Message About Smoking From First Nations Youth*. Ottawa, ON: Assembly of First Nations 2006/2007 Health Bulletin: Fall/Winter.

Czoli CD, Reid JL, Rynard VL, Hammond D. (2015). *E-cigarettes in Canada - Tobacco Use in Canada: Patterns and Trends, 2015 Edition, Special Supplement*. Waterloo, ON: Propel Centre for Population Health Impact, University of Waterloo.

Reid JL, Hammond D, Rynard VL, Burkhalter R. (2015). *Tobacco Use in Canada: Patterns and Trends, 2015 Edition*. Waterloo, ON: Propel Centre for Population Health Impact, University of Waterloo.

The Legislative Assembly of Manitoba. (2015). *The Non-Smokers Health Protection Amendment Act (E-Cigarettes)*. Retrieved from <https://web2.gov.mb.ca/bills/40-4/pdf/b030.pdf>