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| | Policy/Procedure Name: | Smoke-Free Grounds |
| Manual: Administration | Number: | |
| Section: General Administration | Effective Date: | 01 June 2016 |
| Pages: 1 of 4 | Revision Date: | 09 Oct 2020 |

Purpose

Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) is committed to maintaining a healthy and safe environment free from the hazards of second-hand smoke for all users of MAHC grounds. We have a responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention and to be leaders in health policy and practice. To comply with the *Smoke-Free Ontario Act*, S.O. 1994, c. 10 and Ontario Regulation 48/06 s. 12(2) and directives on providing a smoke-free environment, MAHC has adopted a smoke-free grounds policy.

Scope

The policy pertains to all staff members, physicians, patients, volunteers and visitors at Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC).

Policy Statement:

In keeping with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare grounds are 100% smoke free.

Definitions:

Smoking: The act of smoking includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, pipe tobacco, herbal cigarettes, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), and marijuana – medical or otherwise (see Medical Marijuana Policy & Procedure).

Grounds: Grounds are defined as all property within the boundaries of land that is owned and operated by Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare. The boundaries are:

- At SMMH, the property extends from Liddard Street to Ann Street.
- At HDMH, the property extends to Muskoka Road 3 and includes all agencies located on Frank Miller Drive.

Procedure:

Smoking/vaping or holding lit tobacco products is prohibited on all MAHC grounds. This is applicable to all MAHC property including grounds, buildings, vehicles, parking lots, driveways, walkways, forested areas, gardens, and community sites rented or leased by other agencies (ie: One Kids Place, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Algonquin Family Health Team, etc.).

The policy applies to all users of MAHC property including contractors and any other person acting on behalf of the hospital or using the hospital facilities.

Notice of smoke-free grounds will be posted at all entrances; reviewed with all new employees during orientation; and will be present in all employee handbooks. Staff, health

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care providers, and volunteers who do not adhere to this policy will be subject to progressive disciplinary actions. MAHC will support staff compliance through education and linkages to local resources.

All staff, health care providers, and volunteers are responsible for informing patients and visitors about the smoke-free grounds policy. A Smoke-Free Grounds brochure is available for all clinical areas in the hospital for patients, visitors, staff, and volunteers to support compliance with the policy.

All staff, health care providers, and volunteers are responsible for assisting with the enforcement of the Smoke-Free Grounds policy. Anyone observed smoking on the property should be informed politely that they are violating the policy (see Smoke-Free Grounds Enforcement Procedure).

Upon admission, inpatients will either be identified as a smoker or non-smoker; this will be recorded in their health record. See Smoking Cessation Policy & Procedure.

Staff, health care providers, and/or volunteers will not be responsible for escorting patients off property in order to smoke.

Cigarettes and lighters will not be stored in patient rooms and/or medication storage rooms.

A signed Physician Order will be required for a patient to be permitted to leave hospital grounds to smoke.

Patients will leave the hospital property at their own risk and will sign a liability waiver (see Appendix A). Hospital equipment is not permitted to leave the grounds.

To protect patient safety, admitted inpatients will be required to sign in and sign out at the respective nursing station.

MAHC will provide preventative and support measures to patients for complying with a smoke-free environment, such as nicotine replacement therapy (at no charge), as required.

Special exemptions are made for the use of tobacco and/or sweet grass for traditional or spiritual First Nations ceremonies, i.e. Native Circle, Smudging (see Smudging Ceremony Policy).

Tobacco Cessation Support:

Staff, health care providers, and volunteers wishing to quit smoking may contact the Occupational Health & Safety Department for information on community-based smoking cessation support programs. Staff members may also access smoking cessation support through the Employee Assistance Program.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy is available to inpatients. A short-acting nicotine replacement therapy is available on the formulary. See Smoking Cessation Policy & Procedure.

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Notes

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Cross Reference

- MAHC Smoking Cessation for Admitted Inpatients Policy & Procedure
- MAHC Smoke-Free Enforcement Policy & Procedure
- MAHC Smudging Ceremony Policy & Procedure

References & Relevant Legislation

- Smoke-Free Ontario Act, S.O. 1994, c. 10 Ontario Regulation 48/06 s. 12(2)
- Trespass to Property Act
- Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital (2011) Smoke-Free Campus Policy
- Headwaters Health Care Centre (2007) Smoke-Free Policy
- Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care Penetanguishene (2007) Smoke-Free Environment/Tobacco Products Policy
- Southlake Regional Health Centre (2009) Smoke-Free and Tobacco-Free Environment

Appendices:

- Appendix A – Smoke-Free Grounds Patient Release of Liability Form

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**Smoke-Free Grounds
Patient Release of Liability Form**

Patient Name: _____

I am aware that Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) has a smoke-free grounds policy. I agree to follow MAHC's smoke-free policy by only smoking off hospital property. I understand that for my safety, I will be required to sign out and sign in at the nursing station as I leave and return.

I further understand that should I wish to receive nicotine replacement therapy, it is available to me at no charge.

I am aware that staff and volunteers will not be available to escort me off the property to smoke. I am also aware that hospital equipment, such as but not limited to IV poles and wheelchairs, are not permitted to leave the property.

I understand that if I am found smoking on hospital property I could face a fine under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I will refrain from gathering with others and agree to maintain two metres/six feet physical distancing. I will refrain from sharing my belongings (i.e. lighter) or touching items that belong to others.

<patient signature>

<witness name>

<date signed>

www.mahc.ca

Huntsville District Memorial Hospital Site
100 Frank Miller Drive,
Huntsville, Ontario P1H 1H7
Tel: 705-789-2311 Fax: 705-789-0557

South Muskoka Memorial Hospital Site
75 Ann Street,
Bracebridge, Ontario P1L 2E4
Tel: 705-645-4400 Fax: 705-645-4594

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