



	<b>Policy/Procedure Name:</b> Smudging Ceremony Policy & Procedure
<b>Manual:</b> Administration	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Section:</b> General Administration	<b>Effective Date:</b> 01 June 2016
<b>Pages:</b> 1 of 2	<b>Revision Date:</b> 01 June 2017

**Purpose**

To ensure consistency of response to patient and/or family requests to exercise their religious preferences related to engaging in smudging practice and ceremony on the grounds.

**Scope**

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

**Policy Statement**

All requests for smudging will be directed to Chief Quality & Nursing Executive. Smudging ceremonies will be coordinated in conjunction with a spiritual care representative and the most appropriate indigenous elder. These individuals will be present when a smudging ceremony takes place.

A representative from Plant & Facilities Services will supervise the ceremony to ensure that no patients, staff or visitors are unwillingly exposed to smoke and that all fire risks are minimized.

**Procedure**

1. Staff members receiving a request for a smudging will direct all such requests to the Chief Quality & Nursing Executive.
2. Every effort will be made to accommodate the request.
3. Designated spiritual care member(s) will coordinate the ceremony including:
  - 3.1 Working with MAHC to select of the most appropriate location for the ceremony to be conducted.
  - 3.2 Providing details on time, date, location of ceremony to the Manager of Plant & Facilities Services, Switchboard, Communications, and any others affected by the ceremony.

**Special Considerations**

Every effort will be made to accommodate the patient requesting a smudge while respecting other patients and their needs. The dignity of everyone involved is imperative.

**Notes**

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**References / Relevant Legislation**

Orillia Soldiers’ Memorial Hospital Smudging Ceremony: Coordination and Conducting of Policy  
 Ontario Human Rights Code ISBN 0-7778-6518-1  
 Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms 1988 c. 31

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