

Ministry of Public Health

Tobacco Control POLICY

Restricting Smoking in Hospitals

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Smoking and second-hand smoke is widely recognized as the single most important cause of preventable human disease, including lung cancer, heart disease and emphysema.
2. The Afghan government, especially Ministry of Public Health is committed to preventing people from injurious effect of smoking. Tobacco control law was recently approved by the Parliament and has ratified by HE president of Afghanistan Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani through decree number 36 date 1393 / 10 /9 under 5 and 24 article.
3. According article number 10 chapter 3 “smoking is banned in government, non-government offices hospitals, and other health facilities including public gathering places such as, hotels restaurants etc

II. PURPOSE

To provide a healthy and safe environment for patients, visitors and employees by prohibiting the use of smoking materials or smokeless tobacco products in the hospital. Tobacco products include, but are not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and pipe smoking. There are cigarette-like products that actually look and feel like cigarettes but put out steam or humidified air rather than smoke and may deliver nicotine to the user. Due to the conflicting and counterproductive messages sent when people are viewed using such devices, their use is considered a violation of this policy. The restriction on smoking is intended to:

1. Reduce patient risks associated with smoking, including possible adverse effects on treatment.
2. Reduce the risks to other patients and staff associated with passive smoking.
3. Reduce health complications related to second hand smoke and smoking in general.
4. Reduce the risk of a fire hazard.
5. Ensure that non– smokers can work in or visit the hospital in a smoke free environment.
6. Support patients and employees who wish to stop smoking
7. Encourage employees to become involved in health promotion initiatives
8. Set a good example to the public and enhance the image of the hospital through the positive action
9. Demonstrate adherence to the national tobacco control law.
10. Adhere to national Tobacco control law

11. Reduce the risks associated with passive smoking which government research has shown to be dangerous to health.
12. Reduce the negative effects of littering on the environment caused by discarded cigarette ends, which account for 50% of all litter worldwide.
13. Reduce the effects on the environment from discarded cigarette ends.
14. A cigarette butt contains up to 4,000 chemicals including hydrogen, cyanide and arsenic.
15. Strive to become a good neighbour and reduce the effects of littering on local residents.

III. SCOPE

This policy applies to all persons on the hospital site, including patients, visitors, staff, volunteers, students, contractors, vendors. The policy is applicable to all hospital property and premises, including inside and outside of hospital buildings and the hospital grounds and car parking areas, plus associated sites and hospital vehicles without any exceptions to this policy

IV. DEFINITION

Smoking is the inhalation of the smoke of burning tobacco or any other substance encased in cigarettes, pipes, e-cigarettes and cigars and tobacco products such as chewing tobacco, snuff, and pan,

V. MANAGERIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The hospital director and promoting healthy workplace subcommittee will take reasonable steps to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to enable the policy to be fully implemented at ward, department and clinic level. This will include ensuring that all staff, patients and visitors comply with the policy.
2. The hospital director and promoting healthy workplace subcommittee have a duty to ensure this policy is enforced within their area of management responsibility. This includes making employees aware of this policy and appropriately dealing with employees who are in breach of this policy.
3. The hospital director and promoting healthy workplace subcommittee have a responsibility to provide their employees with appropriate support (i.e.: counseling or advice on smoking cessation groups)
4. The hospital director and promoting healthy workplace subcommittee have a responsibility to ensure breaches of this policy are dealt with appropriately in accordance with the Tobacco Control Law.

VI. POLICY STATEMENT

1. The hospital is a smoke-free health care organization as designated by the Health Promoting Hospital Committee in consultation with MoPH and hospital board
2. The hospital realizes that it has a legal obligation under the Tobacco control law to make the hospital free smoke facility.
3. A failure to comply with this policy will be treated as misconduct and as such may lead to formal action in accordance with the Tobacco control law which include a fine of up to AFS 3000.

VII. EMPLOYEES

1. All staff (whether uniformed or not and including contracted, agency and other external staff), patients and visitors are not permitted to smoke inside the Hospital site, including buildings, entrances/exits, cars, car parks, pavements and walkways, and residences. Smoking by any member of staff whilst on the hospital site, and/or during working hours (e.g. whilst on escort duty off site, working in a community setting, whilst in a vehicle) will be treated as misconduct and may lead to formal action in accordance with the Tobacco control law
2. A statement regarding the hospital No Smoking Policy will be included in all job adverts and job descriptions. New starters will also be made aware of the policy an orientation program.
3. The Hospital will erect and maintain signs clearly indicating the hospital's No Smoking policy, stating "This is a no smoking site". Signs will be arranged to cover all areas of the site, particularly entry points. The signs will also say where to smoke. All members of staff will be expected to reinforce the hospital's No Smoking Policy in circumstances which they are comfortable to do so. This will include asking patients and visitors to cease smoking on Hospital premises. Senior staff should support junior staff in enforcing the policy.
4. No facilities will be provided on site for smoking. May hospital allocate a smoke area which is open and isolated
5. Staff will not be permitted to take smoking breaks.
6. Staff will not be permitted to assist patients who wish to smoke. Staff must not accompany patients who wish to smoke, and any member of staff who does so will be subject to disciplinary action in line with No Smoking Law. All staff should receive the support of senior colleagues and Security Officers if patients or visitors place staff under pressure to violate the hospital's No Smoking status.
7. If a patient leaves a Ward without permission from Ward staff, the patient will be wholly responsible for anything that may occur as a result of their action.
8. Patients should be notified of this in line with the hospital's guidance to clinical areas.

9. Cigarettes and other smoking materials will not be sold on Hospital premises.

VIII. PATIENTS AND VISITORS

1. On arrival patients must be made aware of the hospital's no smoking policy.
2. All patients are to be assessed for smoking status and to be filed in the patient medical records.
3. Encouragement and support to cease smoking should form part of the clinical management plan for all smokers.
4. If patients are known to be smoking on the Ward, they should be made aware of the hospital's no smoking policy, the fire risk and informed that it is illegal to smoke on hospital premises.
5. Patients should be discouraged from leaving Wards/Departments to smoke outside. If they choose to leave the Ward/Department they do so at their own risk.
6. If no smoking legislation is breached by a patient, the Divisional Nurse Manager or Matron must be informed plus either the Promoting Healthy Workplace subcommittee head or hospital or Security Manager
7. Patients will be made aware of legal situation with regard to smoking in buildings. The hospital will enforce the smoking ban according the law.
8. the fine should submit to government account as per regulation approved by MOPH
9. All clinical areas should provide posters, leaflets, and other forms of information, advising on the dangers of smoking, and include signage directing smokers to sources of help
10. Pregnant smokers should be given specific information relating to the risks associated with the unborn child.
11. Support to cease smoking should form part of the clinical management plan for all pregnant smokers, providing specific support where appropriate

IX. IMPLEMENTATION

1. All members of staff have a role to play in implementing and complying with this policy and are expected to be familiar with its content.
2. The Medical and Nursing Directors, and Promoting Healthy Workplace Subcommittee will lead on the implementation of this policy.
3. Other managers within the hospital have a crucial role to play in the operational implementation of the policy.
4. Staff representatives have been fully consulted on the content of this policy and will cooperate with management in its implementation, development and review.

5. For contracted services, the contract or service agreement between the hospital and the service provider will specifically require that contracted staff adhere to the hospital's No Smoking policy in every respect.
6. The implementation of this Policy will be monitored by Promoting Healthy Workplace Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will provide regular reports to Health Promoting Hospital Committee on compliance with this policy.

X. MONITORING

1. Promoting Healthy Workplace Subcommittee will monitor the implementation of this policy.
2. Where monitoring has identified deficiencies, recommendations and action plans will be developed and changes implemented accordingly. Progress on these will be reported to the Health Promoting Hospital Committee.
3. Compliance will be monitored by the Promoting Healthy Workplace Subcommittee,
4. Any subsequent actions required following implementation will be developed by the Promoting Healthy Workplace Subcommittee.