Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center
Tobacco-Free Workplace

Effective: June 2013

POLICY

It is the policy of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center (WFUBMC) to prohibit the use of tobacco products on Medical Center property.

SCOPE

Applies to staff, faculty, patients, volunteers, vendors, contractors, students, trainees and visitors

DEFINITIONS

Tobacco Products: For the purposes of this policy, tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes, and snuff.

Electronic cigarettes: Also known as e-cigarettes, electronic cigarettes are battery-operated products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor and other chemicals.

Medical Center Property: Any facility or property (including parking areas and vehicles) owned or operated by the Medical Center, or any other site at which a staff/faculty member performs work for the Medical Center

GUIDELINES

The primary objective of a tobacco-free environment at WFBMC is to maintain a healthy environment for patients, staff, faculty, volunteers, physicians, and visitors. A tobacco-free environment will promote healthy lifestyles throughout our communities, by encouraging individuals, especially Medical Center staff/faculty, to refrain from the use of tobacco products.

Restrictions

No use of tobacco products is allowed on Medical Center property or within any Medical Center vehicle. WFBMC also discourages the use of tobacco products by Medical Center staff/faculty or visitors on properties adjacent to Medical Center properties, such as sidewalks, highway right-of-ways, and privately owned properties.

Electronic cigarettes fall under this policy and are also prohibited on Medical Center property. Although e-cigarettes are promoted as an alternative to tobacco smoking, they are not currently regulated by the Food and Drug Administration. Exact health effects are unknown, and they have not been tested for safety or efficacy.

Patient Use of Tobacco Products

Inpatient Assessment/Compliance

- During the pre-admission process or admission assessment, the nurse will determine if the patient is a tobacco user; if so, the nurse will document such in the patient record and remind the patient that WFBMC is a tobacco-free environment. For patients who use tobacco and desire assistance complying with this policy, the nurse will contact the admitting physician to discuss potential forms of assistance.

- If a patient does not comply with this policy, patient care staff will contact his/her manager or Nursing Administration for assistance. Patients will be advised that failure to comply with this policy may be grounds for a discharge or transfer from the facility.

Physician Responsibility

- The attending physician will assess and discuss the need for Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) with the patient who is a tobacco user, and if indicated, write an order for NRT. When a patient is to be admitted for elective surgery or a procedure, the attending physician should discuss this policy prior to hospitalization.

Outpatients

- Outpatients are subject to the same restrictions as other visitors to WFBMC properties.

Staff/Faculty Responsibilities

- In addition to personally adhering to the tobacco use restrictions in this policy, staff/faculty should courteously inform patients and visitors of this policy and request their compliance.

- Any staff/faculty member who fails to comply with this policy will be subject to performance improvement action.

Security Officer Responsibilities

- Security officers may be contacted if a visitor refuses to comply with this policy. Security will respond to such individuals in the same manner as they do with other visitors who refuse to comply with campus/property policies.

Responsible Department:
Human Resources Staffing Services Department

Review Cycle:
3 years

Approved By:

Cheryl E. H. Locke, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer