

Mount Desert Island Hospital Tobacco Free Campus Policy

Policy: Effective November 21, 2002, the use of all tobacco products (cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and smokeless tobacco) is prohibited on all hospital and health center property and grounds. This includes all indoor and outdoor areas (e.g. entry areas, walkways, grassed areas, picnic areas, parking lots, vehicles owned or leased by MDI Hospital and private vehicles parked on MDI Hospital property).

This policy applies to employees, patients, visitors, volunteers, vendors, contracted workers, tenants, physicians, medical staff and students.

Purpose: Our vision statement states, "Our goal is to promote wellness". Tobacco is the single greatest cause of disease and premature death in America. The World Health Organization has classified environmental tobacco smoke as carcinogenic to humans. Research shows that systems level changes can reduce smoking prevalence. As a healthcare facility it is our purpose and responsibility to provide resources and model behavior that discourages the use of all tobacco products.

Responsibility: It is the responsibility of MDIH personnel and medical staff to educate patients about the tobacco free policy before and during their admission. Additionally, signage and printed material will be available for patients and visitors at the main entrance and on each patient floor.

It is the responsibility of managers to educate their employees about this policy. Violation of this policy will be treated like any other policy infraction.

All individuals associated with MDIH have a responsibility to promote this policy and ensure that visitors, patients and fellow employees are aware that MDI Hospital, including its' Health Centers, is a tobacco free campus. Patients & visitors who violate the policy will be reminded of it and asked to adhere to the policy by any hospital staff.

Cessation Resources: All inpatients that smoke will be offered nicotine replacement therapy, tobacco education and referral to the Maine Tobacco Helpline. Upon discharge, patients who use tobacco will be referred to their primary care physician for appropriate tobacco cessation treatment.

A limited supply of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) in the form of nicotine patches will be offered to employees free of charge on a first come, first served basis until April 30, 2003. Employees requesting NRT must attend a one-hour class that will provide education on the various types of cessation aids available as well as information on the quitting process.

Tobacco Free Campus Policy (cont.)

Tobacco cessation and support classes will be offered monthly free of charge for employees beginning on August 6, 2002 until April 30, 2003.

Employees needing additional assistance during the quit process can contact the Wellness Specialist at Extension 319 or the Maine Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-207-1230.

Reference: CDC. MMWR 2000:49 (No. RR 12)
Maine Hospital Association Smoking Policy Initiative, September 1999:
Best Practices in Tobacco Prevention & Control Initiatives, PTM;

Effective Date: November 21, 2002

Approved: 
Art Blank, CEO & President

Approved: 
Chris Owen, Human Resources Director

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Gayle Gaynor RNC, Tobacco Specialist