

SMCS Tobacco/Smoke Free Policy FAQ

What does Tobacco/Smoke Free mean?

Smoking of any substance and the use of tobacco products in any form is not permitted by anyone:

- On or In SMCS owned or leased property under the SMCS license excluding SOMT residents (Health and Safety code section 1418)
- In SMCS owned or leased vehicles
- In SMCS Parking facilities and lots (excluding within privately owned vehicles)
- Within 30 feet of any entrance, exit, doorway, window, walkway or air intake system

Why is Sutter Tobacco Free?

- Key to our mission of enhancement of well being
- Setting a positive example to community through genuine concern for individual's health
- Protect staff, patients, and community members from exposure to second hand smoke; a known toxin

When does the policy take effect?

ALL of the following SMCS campuses will be Tobacco-Free on Monday October 1, 2007 :

- Sutter General
- Sutter Memorial
- Sutter Center for Psychiatry,
- Sutter Oaks Midtown, Exemption: SOMT residents only

Whom does the policy apply to?

- Staff
 - Patients
 - Visitors
 - Volunteers
 - Contractors and Vendors
- At *ALL SMCS campuses excluding SOMT (residents only)
(Health and Safety code section 1418)

Why can't we keep the designated smoking areas?

- Directly contrary to our mission of enhancement of well being
- Patient Satisfaction complaints, complaints from staff, and community regarding exposure to secondhand smoke
- Secondhand smoke is a known toxin and is a cause of disease; exposure continues despite designated areas (Environmental Protection Agency, CA. Health and Safety Code Section 118920 (a) (1))

Why focus on smoking?

First our focus is not on smoking but on tobacco use overall as tobacco,

- Is the number one preventable cause of death in the U.S (Center for Disease Control)
- Each year tobacco use kills 440,000 people; the equivalent of the entire population of the city of Sacramento (American Lung Association)
- Secondhand smoke is a toxic Group A Carcinogen (Environmental Protection Agency)
- In California \$ 15.9 billion per year is spent in direct and indirect costs on smoking related illness (Center for Health Statistics Office of Health Information and Research)

What about a persons right to smoke?

- We are not requiring anyone to quit smoking but to refrain while on SMCS property
- Smoking is not a legally recognized right nor is it protected under any discrimination acts (TALC-Technical Assistance Legal Center/Public Health Institute)
- Employers have the right to limit or eliminate smoking on their property (TALC-Technical Assistance Legal Center/Public Health Institute)
- California Health and Safety code 118920(b)(2) regulation of smoking in public places is necessary to protect the health, safety, welfare, comfort, and environment of nonsmokers.

What's being done to help those who smoke?

The Sutter Smoking Cessation program offers a smoking cessation course to help any staff, patient, or community member who desires to quit tobacco. You can access information on this program by calling (916) 454-6528