
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Smoke-free site policy 2006

Reason for Development:

- Providing a lead in health promotion
- Compliance with National Guidance
- Health & safety requirement

The public health white paper, Choosing Health, makes clear commitment to a smoke free NHS by the end of 2006.

Section 2(2) of the Health and safety at work act 1974 places a duty on employers to :

"...provide and maintain a safe working environment which is, so far as is reasonably practical, safe, without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work".

The Management of Health and safety at Work Regulations 1999 which, under General Principles of Prevention, include:

- Avoiding risks
- Combating risks at source
- Replacing the dangerous by the non-dangerous or the less dangerous
- Giving collective protective measures priority over individual protective measures

Second hand smoke –breathing other people’s tobacco smoke – has now been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non smokers, as well as many other illnesses (www.rcplondon.ac.uk).

Giving up smoking reduces a patient’s risk of complications and delays in recovery.

Scope:

The Trust acknowledges that breathing other people’s smoke is both a public health hazard and a welfare issue. Therefore the following policy has been adopted concerning smoking at **all Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Cambridge Biomedical Campus premises (buildings and grounds)**.

This includes:

All buildings and grounds of Addenbrooke’s site (boundaries of Long Road, Babraham Road, Robinson Way),

Bus station and car parks on Addenbrooke’s site

The Frank Lee centre & residencies are not included.

Having smoke free grounds as well as buildings sends a strong message from the organisation about the established dangers of smoking and second hand smoke.

People smoking at the entrance to NHS Trusts gives a very poor impression and also means that those entering and leaving the buildings have to pass through tobacco smoke. People in the buildings who work or are treated near to open windows are also exposed to other people's smoke. Smoking cessation is about disease prevention and clinical institutions have a duty of care to staff and patients for both physical and mental health.

Completely smoke free hospitals and grounds create a smoke free environment for people trying to stop smoking and removes triggers that cause many to smoke or relapse to smoking. The availability of a national network of specialist NHS Stop Smoking Services means that support is easily accessible for patients and staff.

If smoking is allowed at entrances and outside buildings, the smoke will drift in through doors and windows thereby continuing to be a health hazard. In addition people dislike the smell of cigarette smoke on others. If employee smoking is allowed on site, this can weaken patients' and staff's attempts to stop.

Aims:

The aim of this Policy is to:

- Protect and improve the health of staff
- Protect and improve the health of patients, visitors and contractors
- Protect both smokers and non-smokers from the danger to their health of exposure to second hand smoke
- Set an example to other employers and workforces particularly in health related locations
- Demonstrate the Trust leadership role in health promotion

..by arranging for Trust buildings, properties and vehicles to be smoke free and requiring staff not to smoke while on site.

This policy is part of a range of policies that together comprise the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Health & Safety arrangements.

Responsibilities:

This policy will apply to all staff, patients, visitors, contractors and other persons who enter the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust or Cambridge Biomedical Campus owned or rented buildings or grounds for any purpose whatsoever.

Responsibility for implementing this policy rests with the Chief Executive. Day to day responsibility for implementation rests with Directors and Managers.

Main text:

This policy recognises that second hand smoke adversely affects the health of all employees. It is not concerned with whether anyone smokes, but with where they smoke and the effect this has on patients, visitors and other members of the wider health community.

It is also concerned with the presence of preventable carcinogenous substances in the locality of health sites.

Commencement date

The policy was agreed by the Trust Board at its meeting on 29.11.05. It's formal adoption will commence on national no smoking day 8.3.06. From that date, staff will not be permitted to smoke while they are on duty.

There will be a lead in period (15.2.06 – 7.3.06). Smoking cessation support will be offered to staff during this time.

Job advertisements will include reference to the non-smoking Policy and indicate that the adherence will be contractual.

Smoking Cessation support

The Occupational Health Department will provide advice and support for staff. Smoking Cessation Support for Patients will also be available.

Those who wish to stop smoking will be helped to access individual or group support and nicotine replacement therapies as appropriate.

Guidance on how to challenge someone who is smoking on site will be available.

Guidance will also be provided on how staff can access smoking cessation support for patients.

You have the full support of the Trust in the delivery of this policy.

Non compliance

Staff who do not comply with the policy will be interviewed by their line manager and referred to Occupational Health for support and advice as appropriate. Should an individual or group of individuals continue to infringe this Policy after the lead in period the manager may invoke disciplinary procedures as a means off encouraging adherence to the Policy.

Patients and Visitors who refuse to comply with this policy may be removed from the site.

Signage

To ensure that everyone entering Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Cambridge Biomedical Campus sites, understands that smoking is not allowed in the buildings or the grounds, clear signs will be on display.

Contractors

Tenders and contracts with the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Cambridge Biomedical Campus will stipulate adherence to this policy as a contractual condition. Existing contacts will be modified as soon as possible.

Patients

Patients will be advised of the new policy on admission to Trust premises and via communication methods such as the website and patient information leaflets.

GP practices will also be informed of the policy.

Existing patients will be addressed through a series of information sessions with the support of stop-smoking specialists and counselling as appropriate.

Equality & Diversity Statement

This document complies with the Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Equality & Diversity statement

Disclaimer

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January 2006

Document management

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