

Effective May 1, 2006

Tobacco Free Policy
Department of Family Medicine
UW School of Medicine and Public Health

SCOPE: This policy affects all staff of the Department of Family Medicine Residency Clinics and central office, and all patients, visitors, vendors, family members of patients, and other individuals who come to our facilities.

PURPOSE:

- To provide an environment that promotes the health and well being of our patients, staff, and visitors.
- To reduce second-hand smoke exposure to all employees and patients at Department of Family Medicine clinics and offices.
- To reduce litter from tobacco butts and empty cigarette packages on Department of Family Medicine clinic grounds.
- As smoking is the single most preventable cause of death and disease, it is imperative that the Department of Family Medicine take all steps necessary to improve the health of our staff, our patients, and the public at large.
- Our mission and values require that all employees experience a work environment that is responsive and supportive of excellent service. Providing a healthy and safe work environment is necessary toward building professional, superior, effective and efficient service. Your support of this policy change is essential to improve the quality of life for all employees, patients and visitors of our clinics, buildings and properties.
- In addition to nicotine addiction, the use of smokeless tobacco is also a significant risk factor to users for oral cancer, tooth loss, heart disease and stroke.

BACKGROUND:

The 1986 report of the Surgeon general on the health consequences of involuntary smoke clearly states the health effects of second hand smoke, determined through valid scientific research (A report of the surgeon general: The health consequences of involuntary smoking. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Centers for Disease Control, Center for Health Promotion and Education, Office on Smoking and Health, 1986). Three major conclusions resulted from this report. 1.) Involuntary smoking is a cause of disease, including lung cancer, in healthy nonsmokers. 2.) The children of parents who smoke compared with the children of nonsmokers have an increased frequency of respiratory infections, increased respiratory symptoms, and slightly smaller rates of increase in lung function as the lung matures. 3.) The simple separation of smokers and nonsmokers within the same airspace may reduce, but not eliminate, the exposure of nonsmokers to environmental tobacco smoke.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

Cigarette, cigar, and pipe smoking, and chewing tobacco is prohibited on all DFM campuses and facilities (owned and leased) to include buildings and property used by staff, patients and visitors. Going to a tobacco-free and smoke free environment means that DFM will no longer allow employees, patients, visitors, physicians, and vendors to use tobacco or smoke on any of its properties, including parking structures, parking lots or anywhere on the grounds.

Failure to comply with this policy shall result in progressive disciplinary action for employees. Patients, visitors, and vendors who violate this policy will be asked to refrain from smoking while on DFM owned or leased property.

The effective date of full implementation of this policy will be May 1, 2006.

It is our intent to give maximum notice to employees and the public of this new policy prior to implementation. With the understanding of nicotine addiction, clinic management and faculty will offer assistance with cessation for those employees interested. Local and state-wide resources will be made available as well as assistance in seeking individual insurance benefits for smoking cessation programs. Complimentary smoking cessation counseling may be offered if the resources are available at any particular clinic.

We will also take steps to remain "good neighbors" to the businesses and residents that surround our clinics and buildings. It is expected that DFM employees will honor this commitment and not smoke on our neighbor's property.

Thank you for your continued support as we implement changes across DFM to move us toward our vision of being the health care employer of choice.