

Georgetown University Hospital Tobacco-free Policy

Tobacco use remains the most significant preventable cause of death and disability in the United States today. Georgetown University Hospital is committed to providing a completely tobacco free environment to promote a healing atmosphere for our patients and a healthy environment for our staff, volunteers, physicians, vendors, patient family members and visitors. No individual on hospital property may use tobacco anywhere on the grounds of the hospital.

PROCEDURE:

I. Patients

Patients receiving care may not use tobacco on Georgetown University Hospital premises. Upon admission, patients will be given admission packets containing information relating to this policy as well as available support services. The registered nurse admitting patients will ask each patient if they currently use tobacco and document the response. If yes, the nurse will notify the attending physician, who can assess the patient and discuss smoking cessation programs, including but not limited to Nicotine Replacement Therapy and/or other pharmacological options with the patient. Similarly, patients who visit outpatient sites, physician offices and/or other clinical sites will be notified of the provisions of this policy and can be counseled by physicians.

II. Family Members, Visitors and Vendors

Informational cards will be available at the information desks, registration areas, nursing units, doctor's offices and other outpatient departments for staff to give to family members and visitors at the hospital. Employees, physicians and other contract staff in clinical work settings are expected to explain the tobacco-free policy and offer information relating to smoking cessation counseling and/or nicotine replacement therapy. Employees and contract staff working outside of a clinical setting are expected to explain the tobacco-free policy with visitors.

III. Definitions

Tobacco Products: Tobacco products include, but are not limited to, cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, and pipe tobacco.

Georgetown University Hospital Property: Any building, property, parking lot or site owned, leased or rented by Georgetown University Hospital and/or a MedStar Health entity, the Georgetown University campus, and the neighborhoods surrounding the Georgetown University Hospital and Georgetown University campus are included in the scope of this policy.