

What about patients who smoke?

Patients are assessed on admission for nicotine dependence and may be offered Nicotine Replacement Therapy to manage cravings and other physical effects of nicotine withdrawal during their stay at hospital.

Staff are trained to assess current smokers and provide support to patients with quitting and controlling nicotine cravings during their stay in hospital. Local Smoke Free coordinators can be contacted via the Smoke Free website for more information on staff training.

Staff are not permitted to assist patients to leave WA Health premises to smoke.

What about home visits?

Patients who receive care at home are not permitted to smoke in the company of WA Health staff.

For further information or to contact a Smoke Free coordinator, visit the Smoke Free WA Health website:
www.health.wa.gov.au/smokefree

Help to Quit:

Quitline 13 7848

www.quitnow.info.au

The Cancer Council WA
Fresh Start Course
Phone: (08) 9212 4333
Email: freshstart@cancerwa.asn.au

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request from a person with a disability.



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

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Smoke Free WA Health:

Information for staff,
contractors and volunteers

No smoking anywhere on grounds



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Smoke Free WA Health System Policy

All WA Health owned and leased premises and grounds including hospitals, community health centres, office buildings, car parks and vehicles are completely smoke free.

Visitors, patients, staff, contractors and volunteers are not permitted to smoke on any WA Health owned or leased buildings, grounds or vehicles.

Signage is displayed at prominent sites around health services to inform visitors, patients, staff, contractors and volunteers that we are smoke free.

Why go Smoke Free?

There is no safe level of exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke, also known as second hand smoke. Medical evidence has confirmed that tobacco smoking and exposure to tobacco smoke are causes of diseases including stroke, cancer, and bronchitis, and can worsen the effects of asthma.

The Smoke Free policy is not intended to stop people smoking but rather to protect others from exposure to Environmental Tobacco Smoke.

Can staff smoke on designated breaks?

Staff and contractors who choose to smoke must leave WA Health grounds to do so. The length of designated tea break times cannot be altered to accommodate smoking.

How can we help staff who want to quit smoking?

Nicotine Replacement Therapy is available to staff at different sites to help those who would like to quit smoking and/or manage their nicotine dependence whilst at work. Local Smoke Free coordinators can be contacted via the Smoke Free website for more information.

What happens if staff do not comply with the Smoke Free policy?

Staff who do not comply with the policy will initially be counselled. Compliance issues are handled just as would other misconduct or breach of any other WA Health policy or condition of employment. Line managers and supervisors must ensure that the policy is adhered to consistently by all staff.

What if a visitor does not comply with the Smoke Free policy?

Non-compliance with the policy by visitors should be dealt with in an educative and non-confrontational manner. If this approach fails, the matter can then be referred to relevant management or security.

Who will enforce the Smoke Free policy?

Respectful enforcement of the policy is everyone's responsibility. The issue should be addressed in a non-confrontational manner, and people informed that we are smoke free and that people can only smoke off-site. Local Smoke Free coordinators can be contacted via the Smoke Free website for more information.

