

UNITED MEDICAL CENTER
Chevenne, WY

TITLE: SMOKING / TOBACCO POLICY

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AREA: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES SECTION: INPATIENT FILE NAME: PTSMOKE

POLICY: United Medical Center is a tobacco free facility (effective 9/1/2000). To promote a healthy environment & in accordance with the house-wide policy, BHS inpatient will be smoking / tobacco free.

DEFINITION: "Tobacco" includes all products (smoking & smokeless): cigarettes, cigars, pipe, rolling, chewing & snuff.

PROCEDURE:

1. Although a controversial issue (smoking vs. non-smoking in psychiatric settings), it is the position of BHS that smoking / tobacco use will be viewed as a substance abuse / dependency issue (nicotine) & clinically addressed as such. "Addressing tobacco use among individuals with mental health and addiction disorders is important not only for health reasons but also because it may improve abstinence from other substances and result in further improvements in mental health recovery" (Stuyt, Order-Conners & Ziedonis, 2003).
2. Smoking / tobacco free facility includes not only the BHS inpatient unit but the entire UMC East building & properties (grounds, parking lots, etc.).
3. Nicotine replacement will be offered to patients assessed with nicotine abuse / dependency (nicotine gum, nicotine patches, nicotine inhalers, etc.) per physician order. Information about nicotine abuse / dependency, health risks, & quitting use will be offered to patients. Adolescents may be ordered nicotine replacement **only** if ordered by physician **and** parental / guardian consent is given. The charge RN will be responsible for obtaining an "Informed Consent for Use of Psychotropic Medication" indicating permission from parents / guardians & signed by the physician prior to administration of nicotine replacements.
4. Upon admission, patients are expected to turn over all smoking materials / tobacco to BHS staff. Smoking materials / tobacco will be sent home with friends / family if present. Otherwise, smoking materials will be stored in locked patient belongings "cubbies" or in a locked drawer at the nurses' desk. Smoking materials / tobacco will be returned to the patient upon discharge from BHS inpatient. Smoking materials / tobacco brought by visitors may be stored in the patients' "cubbies" until discharge or sent home with the visitor(s). **Any visitor(s) providing smoking materials / tobacco to patients by covert means for use on the unit will be prohibited from further visitation.**
5. For safety reasons, patients suspected of hiding or using smoking materials / tobacco on the unit will be subject to search per policy (see Search policy). Need for close observation / safety precaution / 1:1 will be evaluated. Conflicts will inevitably arise in regards to smoking. All conflicts / escalations will be managed by BHS staff per Mandt System guidelines.
6. BHS staff members are expected to comply with the UMC policy regarding employee smoking. BHS staff members are prohibited from obtaining or providing tobacco products for patients. In alignment with our clinical position & out of respect for our patients, it is expected that BHS staff members who smoke / use tobacco will not:
 - a. bring tobacco on the unit
 - b. use tobacco in sight of patients or discuss "smoke breaks" in their presence
 - c. arrive for shift / returns to unit with any evidence they had used tobacco

ORIGINAL: April 5, 1994
REVIEWED: 3/96, 1/98,5/99, 8/03, 8/2004
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