

Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure

Tobacco Use Policy

Revised: 8/2022

Review Date: 8/2024

POLICY

It is the policy of the Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) to prohibit the use of smoking materials and tobacco products. VPCH is a smoke-free, tobacco-free campus.

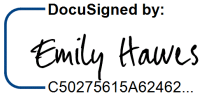
Medical evidence clearly demonstrates that smoking and other use of tobacco products is harmful to the health of smokers and nonsmokers. The purpose of this policy is to establish hospital-wide expectations for employees/contractors, visitors, and individuals hospitalized regarding the use of smoking materials and tobacco products, that includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vaporizers.

PROCEDURE

1. Smoking and use of chewing tobacco and tobacco products is not permitted on campus, *i.e.*, VPCH buildings and acreage, including any vehicle on said property.
2. Possession of tobacco products in one's personal vehicle or possession of those products in personal belongings such as clothing, purses, etc., while on VPCH property is considered a violation of this policy.
 - **EXCEPTION:** Tobacco products placed out of sight in a locked, secured vehicle, not readily accessible to persons outside the vehicle – shall not be a violation of this policy.
3. Employees/contractors and visitors are prohibited from sharing any tobacco products with any person.
4. Off campus smoking or use of tobacco products is not permitted when providing off-campus escort to individuals hospitalized (as off campus escorts are considered an extension of the campus.)
5. Smoking and other tobacco products are prohibited in all vehicles owned or leased by this facility and/or the state of Vermont.
6. Employees/contractors, visitors, and/or individuals hospitalized found using or in possession of tobacco products or smoking paraphernalia (lighters, matches, etc.) should be reported to the on-duty nurse supervisor. These items are considered contraband.
7. The Smoke Free and Tobacco Free Campus Guidelines will be explained to new employees/contractors during their initial orientation period. Employees/contractors who violate this policy will be subject to

applicable personnel policies. In some cases, violation of this policy may constitute patient abuse/neglect. Employee/contractor violations of the smoking and tobacco related products policy are to be reported to the appropriate supervisor.

To provide a healthy environment for patients, VPCH will provide counsel about the hazards of smoking and the use of other- tobacco products, offer Smoking Cessation programs to decrease or stop nicotine intake, provide nicotine replacement products when necessary, and implement a smoke and tobacco free environment. During the admission process, individuals hospitalized shall be provided information on VPCH's smoke and tobacco free environment.

Approved by:	Signature:	Date:
Emily Hawes Commissioner Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	8/8/2022