

<b>Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital Policy and Procedure</b>		
<b>Tobacco Use</b>		
Effective: August 2022	Revised: August 2024	Due to Review: August 2026

**POLICY**

The Vermont Psychiatric Care Hospital (VPCH) recognizes the United States Surgeon General findings that tobacco use in any form, active and passive, is a significant health hazard, and further supports the findings of the American Hospital Association which recommend that hospitals serve as a role model of health for their communities. Smoking and the use of tobacco products on hospital grounds is detrimental to the health and safety of all who may seek services, work, or visit our campus. VPCH is dedicated to providing a safe and healthy environment and is therefore a smoke- and tobacco-free campus.

This policy prohibits smoking, smoking materials, tobacco products, and the use of tobacco, including but not limited to, cigarettes, lighters, chewing tobacco, e-cigarettes, and vaporizers:


- In VPCH owned, leased, satellite, and affiliated buildings where any employees work.
- On VPCH owned or leased grounds.
- At VPCH sponsored events– both indoor and outdoor.
- In state/VPCH owned, leased or rented vehicles, on or off VPCH campus.

This prohibition generally does not include products specifically approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the purpose of cessation or nicotine replacement therapy, however use may be limited/prohibited in accordance with VPCH policy regarding restricted items, particularly as it pertains to the direct care areas of the facility (e.g. Nicorette gum).

**PROCEDURE**

During the admission process, VPCH will provide counsel to hospitalized individuals about the hazards of smoking and the use of other tobacco products, offer Smoking Cessation programs to decrease or stop intake, and provide replacement products when necessary.

This policy will be explained to new employees/contractors during their initial orientation period and designated smoking areas will be identified. Violations of this policy are a serious offense, some may be considered abuse/neglect, and are therefore to be reported to the on duty supervisor and addressed as soon as reasonably practicable. Violations of this policy or failures to report policy violations may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination.

<b>Approved by</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Emily Hawes, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Mental Health	 <p>DocuSigned by: <i>Emily Hawes</i> C50275615A62462...</p>	8/27/2024