

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Peterson Health is committed to promoting health, wellness, prevention and the treatment of diseases within the community. The use of tobacco products has been determined to be a major cause of preventable disease and death. To provide a safe and healthy environment for patients during their hospital stay, for guests during visits and for all employees in which to work, Peterson Health has chosen to serve as a model for the promotion of good health by creating and maintaining a totally tobacco-free environment (including but not limited to cigarettes, pipes, cigars, snuff, chewing tobacco and electronic cigarettes).

The use of tobacco products is prohibited in the buildings and on the grounds of Peterson Health property owned or leased. This includes but is not limited to the Hospital, Peterson Urgent Care, Hospice, Home Health, and Community Care Clinic; draw station at Kerrville Medical Plaza, Ambulatory Care Center, Peterson Medical Associates offices and all associated parking areas. Smoking is not allowed in vehicles on Peterson Health property.

Enforcement of tobacco free campus is the responsibility of all Peterson Health Employees.

DEFINITIONS:

Tobacco products refers to cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and smokeless tobacco (i.e., snuff).

PROCEDURE

A. Notification

1. Employees - All applicants and or potential employees are informed during the application process that Peterson Health is a tobacco free campus. The information is reiterated during new employee orientation. All Peterson Health employees are required to observe and promote compliance with the No Tobacco Use Policy. Assistance in smoking cessation will be provided to any staff member who wishes to stop smoking.
2. Physicians and LIP's - Upon initial application the Medical Staff Office inform applicants and members of the Medical and Allied Health Care Professional Staff of the tobacco free policy.
3. Volunteers and students - Volunteers and students are informed during the application process that Peterson Health is a tobacco free campus. The information is reiterated during orientation. All volunteers and students are required to observe and promote compliance with the No Tobacco Use Policy.
4. Visitors, Vendors - Visitors and vendors are informed of the Tobacco Free Policy through signage posted outside the buildings.
5. Patients - During the nursing admission assessment, the patient's nurse will assess the patient's smoking status. If the patient is currently a smoker a Tobacco Dependence order form for smoking alternatives and nicotine replacement medications will be placed on the chart for the patients'

provider to complete. If a patient refuses the tobacco alternatives, the nurse will document in the medical record that smoking cessation alternatives were offered to the patient and the patient refused.

B. Reporting

1. An “rL” event report shall be completed for tobacco use related incidents at Peterson Health

C. Enforcement

1. Employees, Physicians, LIP’s, Volunteers and Students - All Peterson Health employees, physicians, LIP’s, volunteers and students are responsible for ensuring compliance. Any of the above who observe anyone violating the No Tobacco Use Policy are requested to courteously remind the person smoking of the No Tobacco Use Policy and suggest smoking materials be extinguished or the use ceased while on the property.

In the event the tobacco use violation involves a potential threat to health or safety (i.e., smoking where combustible supplies, flammable liquids, gases, or oxygen are used or stored), the Security Department staff may be called for additional support.

Failure to adhere to the No Tobacco Use Policy may result in corrective action, up to and including termination. The first violation will be considered a Group B violation and documented as a “written warning and placed in the employee’s Personnel File. Should a second violation occur within twelve (12) months of the first violation, the employee will be terminated. Dismissal may occur after **any (first)** violation of the policy if the employee is smoking in areas where combustible supplies, flammable liquids, gases or oxygen are used or stored or if the employee becomes disruptive after being asked to cease smoking on Peterson Health property.

2. Visitors and Vendors - A visitor or vendor observed smoking or using tobacco on any of the Peterson Health properties will be informed of the no tobacco on campus policy at that time and will politely be asked to stop. After an explanation of the policy has been given and the visitor or vendor refuses to cooperate with the No Tobacco Use Policy of Peterson Health he/she will be politely asked to leave Peterson Health property. Ultimately the police department can and will be notified if needed to assist.
3. Patients - If a patient is seen smoking or using tobacco products, their nurse will be notified. The nurse will remind the patient of the tobacco free campus policy. The patient’s attending provider should be contacted to request an order for Nicotine replacement. If the patient refuses to comply and or exhibits disruptive behavior a security assistance request will be initiated by dialing 511. Patients are reminded of the no tobacco use policy and are discouraged from leaving the inpatient units to use tobacco products. If a patient chooses to leave the unit they do so at their own risk. Their provider will be notified. See [NUR Against Medical Advice, Absent Without Leave](#) for additional information.