



SMOKING POLICY

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Aim

The Government introduced smoke-free legislation in the Health Act 2006 with the aim of:

- reducing the risks to health from exposure to second-hand smoke;
- recognising a person's right to be protected from harm and to enjoy smoke-free air;
- increasing the benefits of smoke-free enclosed public places and workplaces for people trying to give up smoking so that they can succeed in an environment where social pressures to smoke are reduced; and
- saving thousands of lives over the next decade by reducing both exposure to hazardous second-hand smoke and overall smoking rates.

Smoke-free legislation means that virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces will become smoke-free.

This policy has been developed to protect all staff, service users and visitors from exposure to passive smoke and to comply with the Health Act 2006.

1. Legislative advice for Hospices

Adult Hospice's are an area outside of current legislation but they are still subject to a set of restrictions.

It may seem strange allowing smoking in a hospice as this is a place dedicated to palliative care but, for someone suffering from a terminal illness this is their last chance to enjoy a few forbidden pleasures and it is felt that this probably unlikely to do any harm at this stage.

Hospices, care homes and mental health units **may state** that patients/residents are able to smoke in their own rooms but not in communal or other enclosed areas. (Health Act 2006).

There is also a general duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and we are obliged to minimise the exposure of staff and the public to smoke.

Therefore we must consider this legislation and develop a local position which is laid down in this policy for both staff, visitors and patients.

2. Staff and Visitors

The Hospice will employ a **No Smoking** policy for staff and visitors in all premises and grounds.

3. Patients

Patients should confirm with the medical staff regarding advisability of smoking particularly if they are wearing petroleum based dressings.

In-patients- may go outside of their room to smoke and should advise staff in order they can ensure appropriate ashtrays are made available. A smoking blanket can be provided for patients if it is of their choice. Inpatients must be able to light their own cigarette and dispose of it safely and/or a family member must be available to do this for them if they are unable. Staff/volunteers will not be expected to play a part or exposed to smoke.

Day care patients -may smoke outside the building in the Day-care courtyard areas but must be independent and able to light and hold their own cigarette. They must then discard them in a safe and appropriate manner into the ashtrays provided. Members of staff or volunteers should not be involved in this process or exposed to the smoke.

The handyman will ensure there is regular emptying of external ashtrays.

4. Patients using oxygen

Patients who are using oxygen are not allowed to smoke at any time that the oxygen is in use.

5. Smoking within parked cars

If staff or visitors choose to sit in their cars to smoke they must be requested to keep all waste within their vehicles.

6. Electronic cigarettes

Lindsey Lodge Hospice's smoking policy also applies to those wishing to smoke electronic cigarettes.

It must be remembered that there is still a fire risk with electronic cigarettes. 'Electronic cigarette' means a product that can be used for consumption of nicotine-containing vapour via a mouth piece, or any component of that product, including a cartridge, a tank and the device without cartridge or tank.

7. Non compliance

It is the duty of all employees to advise patients, visitors and volunteers of the hospices policy on smoking and endorse the principles outlined. Non-smoking signs are displayed and can be pointed out if needed. Staff may remind those found smoking politely that the hospice has a duty to protect everyone from the harmful effects of second hand smoke and does not permit smoking on the premises for anyone other than patients.

<p>REFERENCES:</p> <p>The smoke-free (premises and enforcement) Regulations 2006</p> <p>Public Health England Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces -Advice to inform evidence-based policy making 2016</p> <p>Health & Safety at Work Act 1974</p>				
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