

AV2000 - SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT

1.0 PURPOSE

To fulfill a leadership role in promoting health and wellbeing and in preventing illness related to second hand smoke and vapour.

To protect Interior Health (IH) patients, residents, clients, employees, staff, contractors, students/trainees, volunteers and the general public from the harmful effects of second hand smoke.

To value staff by ensuring healthy, smoke-free work environments.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
Client	Includes patients, residents and persons in care in IH facilities and/or programs.
Electronic Cigarette	Includes but is not limited to: vapour products, e-cigarettes, e-pipes, e-cigars, e-hookah, hookah pens and other similar devices.
IH Premises	Includes IH owned, leased or operated facilities, grounds, vehicles, and clients' homes when care is provided by IH staff.
Smoking	Inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying or having possession of a burning or lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic cigarette or other lighted smoking equipment, burning tobacco, cannabis or any other substance that is lighted, vaporized or heated.
Staff	Staff, physicians, volunteers, students, contractors and other persons working or acting on behalf of IH.

3.0 POLICY

- The use of tobacco, cannabis and/or vapour products is prohibited in or on all IH Premises, with the exception of ceremonial use of tobacco in specified programs. In alignment with the Welcome and Acknowledgement of First Nation Traditional Territory policy (*October 2018: IH is approving this policy in November 2018*), ceremonial tobacco offered to an Elder or Knowledge Keeper is exempt from this policy. The use of cannabis in forms that are not smoked or vaped may be exempt in specified programs.
- Agencies that contract with IH to provide clinical services/beds are strongly encouraged to adopt policies that are consistent with the principles of this policy.

Policy Sponsor: VP, Population Health & Chief Medical Health Officer		1 of 2
Policy Steward: Tobacco Reduction Coordinator		
Date Approved: March 2005	Date(s) Reviewed(r)/Revised(R): May 2007 (R) July 2010 (r) January 2011 (R) June 2014 (R) October 2018 (R) April 2019(R)	

AV2000 - SMOKE FREE ENVIRONMENT

- All future agreements with agencies providing clinical services/beds funded by IH shall require the agency or facility to have a policy consistent with the principles of this policy.
- All inpatients who use tobacco or cannabis will be identified and offered support to manage withdrawal symptoms.
- Staff are offered supports to assist them in reducing and/or eliminating their tobacco and/or cannabis dependency.
- Staff are not required to accompany Clients outside to smoke.
- Staff, Clients and visitors are advised of, and expected to comply with, the provisions of this policy.
- Staff who do not follow this policy are subject to normal disciplinary practices.
- Enforcement of this policy for Clients and visitors will follow the current safety enforcement procedures in place at each IH Premise.

5.0 REFERENCES

1. Government of British Columbia, Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and Regulation, 2016.
2. Government of Canada, Cannabis Act, 2018.
3. Government of British Columbia, Cannabis Control and Licensing Act, 2018.
4. Workers' Compensation Occupational Health and Safety Regulation "4.80.1 to 4.82 – Environmental Tobacco Smoke".
5. Workers' Compensation Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, "Guidelines – G4.81 and G4.82".

Policy Sponsor: VP, Population Health & Chief Medical Health Officer	2 of 2
Policy Steward: Tobacco Reduction Coordinator	
Date Approved: March 2005	Date(s) Reviewed(r)/Revised(R): May 2007 (R) July 2010 (r) January 2011 (R) June 2014 (R) October 2018 (R) April 2019(R)