



Tobacco-Free Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are Kansas hospitals undertaking this initiative?

Our goal is to create a healthy environment for employees, patients and visitors.

How dangerous is tobacco use?

Tobacco is the cause of death for 4,400 Kansans every year and is the root cause of many illnesses and lost productivity. Tobacco use in and around hospitals poses health and safety risks for patients, employees and visitors.

Why can't individuals use tobacco products outside of hospitals?

Second-hand smoke has been proven hazardous to people's health. An international panel of experts brought together by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, an agency of the World Health Organization, determined that second-hand smoke causes cancer. As a health care provider, hospitals must provide an overall healthy environment to patients, employees and visitors – inside and out.

How many hospitals are going tobacco-free?

Hospitals across Kansas have joined together with a goal of being tobacco-free. As health care organizations, we are committed to the health and safety of our employees and patients. We believe that we have a responsibility to take a leadership role on this major health issue, and allowing people to use tobacco products defeats this purpose.

Do employees, patients and visitors have to quit using tobacco?

No. Hospitals are not forcing anyone to quit. This policy means individuals can't use tobacco products on hospital property.

What about individual rights?

Hospitals want to maintain a healthy environment for patients and visitors, as well as for employees. For this reason, we ask that individuals refrain from using tobacco products on this campus.

What are hospitals doing to help employees who use tobacco products?

Many hospitals are offering smoking cessation classes and/or tobacco-abatement products. In addition, individuals who use tobacco are encouraged to work with their physician about other options and alternative resources.

How do patients who use tobacco products seek help?

Upon admission to any Kansas hospital, patients are encouraged to notify the admissions staff if they use tobacco products. This information will be forwarded to their physician who can make arrangements to provide them with tobacco-abatement products or discuss alternative resources.