



**Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust**  
**will be a smoke free site from**  
**01.01.2019**

In July the Government published its new Tobacco Control Plan: Towards a smoke-free generation. It envisages a future in which the prevalence of smoking could be reduced to 5 per cent or less – a smoke-free generation.

A key theme is an increased emphasis on the role of the NHS in tackling tobacco use. In terms of specific policy, the Plan includes a government commitment to “support the implementation of smoke-free policies across all hospitals in England”, aiming for a smoke-free NHS estate by 2020.

We appreciate that this will pose many challenges for all of us working in health, both when we are challenged by patients and their families who wish to smoke and also for members of staff who smoke themselves.

The main reasons behind this initiative are

- Smoking remains the leading cause of premature death in the UK and is responsible for half of the health gap between the poorest and most affluent communities.
- This policy will enable the NHS to reach millions of smokers and offer stop smoking support
- It is primarily about helping patients and staff who smoke to quit.
- Whatever the challenges in implementing smoke free sites and ultimately a tobacco-free NHS, the bottom line is clear: it should never be the job of the NHS to support smokers to smoke.
- Hospitals are health promoting environments for all and cannot be a place for a behaviour that leads to the illness and death of so many.

The message we convey needs to be clear and most importantly consistent, to enable people to understand that smoking can't be facilitated in a place where people come to get well. This is an opportunity that we must embrace and act upon, not only to reduce the huge burden of smoking on the NHS, but to reduce health inequalities and save lives. This is about creating the 'new normal'.

As a tobacco-free trust, we will do all we can to help staff who smoke to quit or, for those who aren't ready to stop in one step, to reduce the harm from smoking. Any members of staff who smoke are encouraged to seek stop smoking support for help and advice on either quitting or managing their smoking at work.

The challenge for staff as they engage in the implementation of the 'No Smoking Policy' are not to be underestimated, we have therefore put together some guidelines for staff in the form of a Q&A style aide memoire.

Like all Trust policies, staff will adhere to it and wherever and whenever possible shall convey that message sympathetically to visitors and patients. This is only if you think it is appropriate, the intervention must be proportionate and at no time must staff put themselves in a difficult or compromised situation. If in doubt then don't do it and never put yourself at risk or potentially at risk.

Q – Can a patient or a member of the public smoke inside a building?

A – No, this is against the law and must be rigorously enforced by everyone

Q – What do I do if they refuse to take advice?

Q – For patients and visitors point out the facts in a calm and non-threatening way and contact security, if it is a member of staff then it is the same approach plus notify their manager and raise a Datix report.

Q – Can a patient, member of the public or staff smoke outside in the grounds on our property?

Aa – No, this is against Trust policy and must be enforced proportionally by everyone. This is very much dependant on circumstances and your own confidence in approaching a stranger. If it does not put you at risk, then explain politely about Trust policy and the issue of smoking in a healthcare premise. If they don't take any notice and are leaving the site then that is the end of it. If they persist and it is a safety issue then escalate it to your senior for appropriate action.

Ab - If it is a Trust employee, then kindly remind them of Trust policy. If they are persistent offenders and you know their department or can identify them, then escalate it upwards appropriately. In all cases, do not put yourself at risk and flag it to a manager.

Q – What do I do if they refuse?

A – For patients and visitors point out the facts in a calm and non-threatening way and contact security if they are verbally aggressive, if it is a member of staff then it is the same approach plus notify their manager and raise a Datix report.

Q – What if I am a member of staff and a patient asks to be taken outside for a cigarette?

A – Discuss this with the senior person in charge of the clinical area and get a decision based on the clinical needs and the safety of the patient. There are a number of Nicotine Replacement Therapy and alternative products to explore, if the patient insists on going outside, with or without your assistance, then all you can do is advise them of the Trust policy and the expectations of the NHS and that it is not acceptable to smoke on NHS property, a Datix should then be raised.

Q – What happens if the patient is confused, disorientated or has a mental illness and wishes to leave the clinical area to smoke either on-site or off-site.

A – The safety of the patient is paramount in all cases whether they want to smoke or not. Discuss the situation with the senior person for your area and come to a decision on how you best manage the situation and log it in the nursing notes.

Q – What happens if all else fails and people persist in smoking?

A – For staff, escalate the issue to their manager, if it is patients, then escalate it to the clinical area if known, if not fill in a Datix appropriate to the situation and try and ascertain identity if possible. Always consider raising a Datix as this alerts a number of key people. If it is a safety issue then either contact the Health & Safety Department or Fire Officer.

Finally, always approach members of the public with caution, if possible, have another member of staff with you as 2 are better than 1, never put yourself in any danger and always extricate yourself from any situation that looks like it is getting difficult or verbally abusive. If someone needs to know about what you are uncomfortable with then put it on Datix.