

SMOKE-FREE HEALTH CARE POLICY®

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- The [NSW Health Smoke-free Health Care Policy \(PD 2015_003\)](#) is a NSW Ministry of Health Policy Directive.
- Compliance with the NSW Health Smoke-free Health Care Policy means that all NSW Health buildings, grounds and vehicles are smoke-free. The only exceptions are outdoor designated smoking areas (DSA).
- In compliance with the [Smoke-free Environment Act 2000](#) and the [Smoke-free Environment Regulation 2016](#), SCHN will enforce smoke free areas in the following locations:
 - Enclosed public places
 - Within 4 metres of pedestrian access points to buildings
 - Bus stops and cab ranks, where people queue or gather
 - Within 10 metres of children's play equipment
 - In commercial outdoor dining areas
- Amendment of the *Smoke-free Environment Act 2000* in 2018 made it an offense to smoke or use an e-cigarette in a smoke-free area.
- [IB2018_026](#) gave notice that the *NSW Smoke-free Health Care Policy* now covers the use of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes). The use of e-cigarettes is to be treated in the same manner as the use of other tobacco products in smoke-free areas.
- Where appropriate and in line with the [NSW Health Prosecution Policy and Guidelines](#), Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) may be issued to staff, clients and visitors who fail to comply.
- Tobacco and smoking materials will not be sold within SCHN facilities.
- Quit smoking support is available for staff, volunteers, patients and parents/carers. More details are provided in the SCHN Smoking Cessation Practice Guide.

SCHN Contact: Finance and Corporate Services

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy, Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st January 2022	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Department Head	Area/Dept: Kids Health Promotion Unit

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Deletion of reference to the Designated Smoking Area (DSA) at The Children's Hospital at Westmead, which was permanently removed in October 2021

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All staff should read the NSW Health Policy Directive and this Policy.

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1 Introduction

1.1 NSW Ministry of Health Policy

The NSW Ministry of Health Policy Directive [PD2015_003 \(NSW Health Smoke-free Health Care Policy\)](#) requires that all NSW Health buildings, grounds and vehicles are smoke-free.

The only exceptions are designated outdoor smoking areas established by local health districts and specialty networks.

The policy aims to reduce the risks to health associated with tobacco use and reduce exposure to second hand smoke for patients, staff and visitors.

Staff, volunteers, patients, parents/carers and visitors are encouraged and supported to stop smoking.

1.2 Glossary

5As Smoking Cessation

An evidence based framework for structuring smoking cessation brief interventions in the healthcare setting.

Designated Smoking Areas (DSAs)

Designated smoking areas (DSAs) are outdoor areas identified for the use of smokers to use tobacco products.

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)

NRT is any form of smoking cessation aid which delivers a measured dose of nicotine to help reduce the severity of craving and withdrawal symptoms. NRT includes products such as nicotine patches, nicotine gum, nicotine lozenges and nicotine mouth spray or inhalators.

Smoking Cessation Brief Interventions

Brief opportunistic advice from a health professional to present options on smoking cessation, for example: Car & home smoke free zone, cutting back and or stop smoking.

2 Smoke-Free Health Care Policy

In compliance with NSW Health Smoke-free Health Care Policy (PD2015_003), smoking is not permitted in SCHN buildings, grounds or vehicles.

In line with IB2018_026, e-cigarettes are also covered by this policy and are considered to be the same as using tobacco products.

2.1 Designated smoking areas

There are no designated smoking areas (DSAs) declared by the Sydney Children's Hospitals Network.

The DSA at The Children's Hospital at Westmead was permanently removed in October 2021.

DSAs accessible to patients, visitors and staff at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick are the responsibility of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and are located at:

- Barker Street entrance to the Randwick Hospital campus
- Nurses Drive, opposite the Prince of Wales Hyperbaric Unit

These DSAs are shared by all health facilities on the campus.

DSAs are intended primarily for the use of visitors. Children are not permitted in a DSA.

2.2 Support for staff and volunteers

Staff and volunteers are encouraged to not smoke whilst at work.

The use of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) may help to control nicotine dependence whilst at work.

Staff and volunteers who want to quit smoking will be supported by referral to the Quitline, to smoking cessation support counselling services and supply of four(4) weeks free NRT.

Staff members who are unable to go without smoking whilst at work must comply with this policy by:

- moving off the grounds to smoke or
- using a DSA (where one exists) to smoke

Staff who smoke whilst at work and are identifiable as NSW Health staff at the time (by wearing uniform, clinical or surgical attire or staff ID) should consider the effect their actions have on public perceptions of health and public health policy. As much as practicable, staff should not wear their uniform, clinical or surgical attire or staff ID if smoking at work.

For further information on smoking cessation assistance and support for staff and volunteers, please refer to the SCHN Smoking Cessation Practice Guide.

2.3 Support for patients and parents/carers

Parents of young children who are patients should be offered smoking cessation support during their child's hospital stay.

Parent/carers who want to quit smoking should be referred to the Quitline and to smoking cessation support counselling.

Young people who are patients and smokers should be offered NRT and support to quit smoking during their hospital stay. If young patients are provided with NRT during their hospital stay, they should be given 3 days' supply of NRT at discharge.

Young people who choose to continue to smoke and are allowed to leave the ward to smoke, must move off hospital grounds to do so and, for their safety, must be accompanied by a parent/carer or responsible family member.

For further information on smoking cessation support for patients and parents/carers, please refer to the SCHN Smoking Cessation Practice Guide.

2.4 Publicity, Promotion and Education

The SCHN will conduct periodic education, publicity and promotion strategies to explain the objectives of the NSW Health Smoke Free Health Care Policy and to promote the benefits of a smoke free environment.

3 Compliance, Responsibilities and Enforcement

- All staff members are to comply with the NSW Health Smoke Free Health Care Policy and this Policy.
- Managers are to ensure that their staff members, in particular new staff and contractors are aware of this policy.
- Non-compliance with this policy by staff will be managed in line with the NSW Health Managing Misconduct Policy ([PD2018-031](#))
- Visitors and clients not complying with the policy should be advised of the NSW Health Smoke Free Health Care Policy and the SCHN Policy.
- In accordance with the NSW Health Prosecution Policy and Guidelines, the SCHN may enable the issuing of Penalty Infringement Notices (PINs) to staff, volunteers, clients and visitors who do not comply with the Smoke-free Health Care Policy

4 Contact Information

- Finance and Corporate Services,
 - Corporate Services Manager, Westmead, 9845 2662
 - Corporate Services Manager, Randwick, 9382 1308
- Kids Health Promotion Unit, 98453588

5 Links

For further information on smoking cessation refer to:

- NSW Health Managing Nicotine Dependence: A Guide for NSW Health Staff
<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/managing-nicotine-dependence.aspx>
- NSW Quitline: <http://www.icanquit.com.au/>
- Cancer Institute NSW: <https://www.cancer.nsw.gov.au/how-we-help/cancer-prevention/stopping-smoking>

6 References

1. NSW Health PD2015-003 Smoke-free Health Care Policy.
https://www1.health.nsw.gov.au/pds/ActivePDSDocuments/PD2015_003.pdf Accessed July 2019
2. Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 No 69. 2014. Retrieved from
<https://legacy.legislation.nsw.gov.au/~pdf/view/act/2000/69/whole> September 2021.
3. Smoke-Free Environment Regulation 2016. Retrieved from
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4. Amendment to the NSW Smoke-free Health Care Policy. 2018 [IB2018_026](#). Accessed July 2019
5. NSW Tobacco Strategy 2012-2021. Retrieved from
<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Pages/tobacco-strategy-1221.aspx>, Accessed July 2019
6. World Health Organization. WHO Report on the Global Tobacco Epidemic: Warning About the Dangers of Tobacco. 2011. http://www.who.int/tobacco/global_report/2011/en/ Accessed July 2019.

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