

## Policy Applies to:

Anyone accessing the Mercy campus, and or when undertaking Mercy Hospital related business off-site.

## Related Standards:

- Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 amended in 2020.
- SmokeFree Aotearoa Action Plan 2025
- Health and Safety at Work Act 2015
- EQulP - Standard 2.4 - The organisation promotes the health of the population.
- EQulP - Standard 3.2 - The organization maintains a safe environment for employees, consumers/patients and visitors.
- Nga Paerewa Standard 4 – Person Centered and Safe Environment

## Rationale:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Mercy Hospital:

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that Mercy Hospital:

- Promotes and supports smoke free lifestyles to assist in providing a healthy environment for staff, patients, visitors, credentialed specialists, and contractors.
- Meets the requirements of the Smoke Free Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 amended in 2020.
- Recognises its leadership role in reducing smoking related morbidity and mortality in the community.
- 

## Cultural Considerations:

Mercy Hospital acknowledges the importance of cultural sensitivity in implementing this policy. We respect the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) and consider the specific needs and cultural practices when implementing this policy.

1. We recognise that Māori and Pacific peoples are disproportionately affected by smoking and aim to align with this plan to provide support and resources for smoking cessation to all staff who want this in a way that is culturally appropriate (Smokefree Aotearoa 2025).
2. **Protection of Young People:** We aim to discourage young people from taking up smoking or vaping. We strive to communicate this message in a culturally sensitive way, reinforcing the idea that being smoke-free is the norm.

We are committed to working with the both the Māori and Pacific Leadership groups, to ensure this policy is implemented in a way that respects and acknowledges the cultural needs and appropriateness of any ongoing and new practices in smoking and vaping cessation.

## Definitions:

**Key Words:** smoke, smoking, smoking cessation, Auahi Kore, nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), illicit inhalable drugs and prohibited items, e-cigarettes, vaping.

**Mercy Hospital** campus includes grounds, buildings, car parks, offices, Mercy Hospital owned vehicles, Manaaki, Marinoto Clinics and Mercy Care East.

**Vaping** - the action or practice of inhaling and exhaling the vapor produced by a vaping device or heated tobacco product.

### **Objectives**

- Mercy Hospital will provide smoke and vape free premises.
- To align with the Smokefree Aotearoa Plan 2025 focusing on wellbeing to ensure we are supporting the reduction in smoking and vaping.

### **Implementation:**

#### **Employees**

Staff will be made aware of the Smoke and Vape Free policy through:

- The Mercy Hospital recruitment and employment policies.
- The Mercy Hospital website.
- Smoke free signage on the premises.
- New staff orientation

Mercy Hospital requires all preadmission, day surgery, Manaaki and ward nurses to complete the ABC (Ask, Brief advice, Cessation support) approach for Smoking Cessation education on-line learning package on Mercy's learning management system.

#### **Patients**

Patients will be made aware of Mercy Hospital Smoke and Vape Free policy through:

- The Mercy Hospital website
- Personify
- Patient Information Booklet
- Preadmission assessment interviews, and
- Smoke and vape free signage across the premises.

All patients admitted to Mercy Hospital / Manaaki will be assessed for smoking history, including smoking duration. Documentation on the patient assessment form/online includes a record of brief advice, cessation support offered, or referral completed to 'Southern Stop Smoking Service' which offers quit smoking coaching and prescriptions free of charge. Patients admitted for surgery who do not wish to quit smoking, will be provided with support to manage nicotine withdrawal/cravings as part of the patient treatment plan. Where NRT is to be administered to an inpatient, this must be prescribed on the medication chart.

#### **Vaping**

Mercy Hospital acknowledges that vaping can, in some cases, be an effective smoking cessation strategy for some people. However, Mercy Hospital does not support the use of vaping devices and products on the Mercy Hospital campus. Strategies, such as NRT, will be available to those patients using Vaping to support their smoking reduction.

#### **Visitors**

Visitors will be made aware of Mercy Hospital Smoke and Vape Free policy through:

- The Mercy Hospital website
- Visitors' policy, and

- Smoke and vape free signage on the premises.

### ***Contractors***

Contractors will be made aware of Mercy Hospital Smoke and Vape Free policy through:

- The Information Book for Contractors
- Information Sheet for Contracted Suppliers/Service Providers
- Contractors' orientation induction
- Smoke free signage on the premises.

### ***Credentialed Specialists***

Credentialed specialists will be made aware of:

- Mercy Hospital's Smoke and Vape Free policy as part of their credentialing process.
- Mercy Hospital's website, and
- Smoke free signage around the campus.

### ***Marinoto Clinics and Mercy Care East Personnel***

Marinoto Clinics, Manaaki and Mercy Care East personnel will be made aware of the Mercy Hospital Smoke and Vape Free policy:

- In the Welcome Pack
- The Mercy Hospital website, and
- Smoke free signage around the campus.

### **Compliance**

Mercy Hospital will ensure that smoke free signage is visible and will promote smoke free lifestyles and smoking cessation through staff and public education posters and newsletters.

Guidance to support managers, and staff to deal with the situation arising when an individual chooses to smoke or vape in the workplace, is available in Appendix One.

### **Complaints**

Any employee concerned that the conditions of the Smoke and Vape Free (Auahi Kore) Policy are not being met should discuss this with their manager.

Any member of the public who is dissatisfied with Mercy Hospital's Smoke and Vape Free (Auahi Kore) Policy may make a complaint via the formal complaint process.

### **Evaluation:**

The Te Whatu Ora Smoke Free Coordinator will be invited to review policy and process when significant changes are made.

Review of pertinent incident data from incident management system

### ***Support for Employees***

Employees who require support in managing or quitting smoking or vaping can access EAP for support, access the SmokeFree website or submit an Occupational Health Assessment form on Tautoko for guidance from the Health and Safety Specialist in the next steps they can take on their journey.

### Associated Documents

#### External

- SmokeFree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 amended in 2020.
- Health and Safety at Work Act (2015)
- *The New Zealand Guidelines for Helping People to Stop Smoking*, Ministry of Health, June 2014
- *MOH SmokeFree Aotearoa Action Plan 2025*
- *Guide to Prescribing Nicotine Replacement Therapy*, Ministry of Health, June 2014 *ABC Pathway, Key Messages for Frontline Healthcare workers*, Ministry of Health, 2014,

#### Internal

- **Appendix One: Guidelines for Addressing Non-Compliance with the Smoke Free (Auahi Kore) Policy**
- SmokeFree Policy environmental audit tool
- Medicines Management Policy
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy Policy
- Guide to NRT Assessment for Quit Card Providers
- Patient Assessment Policy

#### Patients

- Mercy Hospital website
- The Quit book, beat the smoking addiction.
- Patient Information Booklet
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy, Policies- SharePoint
- Complaints Policy, SharePoint

#### Visitors

- Mercy Hospital website
- Visitors Policy

#### Staff

- Mercy Hospital website
- Mercy Hospital Information for Applicants,
- On boarding documentation
- Incident Policy
- Mercy Hospital Staff Orientation via Tautoko
- Mercy Hospital Staff Orientation Information, Health and Safety
- Health and Safety one-on-one orientation checklist

#### Marinoto Clinics, Mercy Care East

- Welcome Information Pack for Marinoto Clinics and Mercy Care East

#### Contractors

- Contractor Induction Book
- Information Sheet for Contracted Suppliers/Service Providers.