

- I. Policy: Tobacco-Free Campus**
Policy #: 2020TFC
Policy Status: Current
Edit/Review Date: 01/2021, 09/2022, 07/2023
Area: All McLeod Centers Programs
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II. Purpose

The negative health effects associated with tobacco use are the number one cause of preventable deaths in the United States.¹ Second-hand smoke increases the risk of heart disease and lung cancer up to 30%.² Additionally, litter associated with tobacco use makes up more than one-third (nearly 38%) of all collected litter. McLeod Centers recognizes the importance of eliminating exposure to second-hand smoke and the litter caused by discarded tobacco products. The harmful effects of tobacco use can be mitigated by the development and implementation of an organization-wide tobacco free campus policy. McLeod Centers specializes in the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) as behavioral health diagnoses independently and as co-occurring conditions. Tobacco use in any form has been demonstrated to compound existing addictions and heighten addictive behaviors. The implementation of a tobacco-free campus supports our mission to help people get well. Our foundational values are to treat patients, clients, and staff with dignity and respect. In order to comprehensively provide addiction treatment services, we must clinically address tobacco (nicotine) dependence in all levels of service delivery.

III. Policy/Procedure

1. Applicable Areas of Focus

Smoking, vaping, and the use of tobacco in any form is prohibited within all McLeod Centers facilities (owned or leased), McLeod Centers properties (owned or leased), McLeod Centers-owned vehicles, and any McLeod Centers-sponsored events.

2. Applicable Personnel

Adherence to this policy applies to all McLeod Centers employees, vendors (including contractors and delivery), collaborative and/or referring partners, peer support, clients, patients, board members, volunteers, interns, students, and any visitors to our properties (including at the training site).

3. Employee Obligation for Compliance

Appropriate signage will be provided to be displayed prominently at each property. Employees should assist in monitoring that these signs remain posted and in good condition. Employees should monitor for compliance of the policy throughout the day. If non-compliance is observed, a reminder of the tobacco-free campus policy

¹ American Heart Association CEO Roundtable—Tobacco Control in the Workplace

² *The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Tobacco Smoke: A Report of the Surgeon General*, DHHS <http://ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK44324/>. Accessed May 29, 2015

should be given to the individual. If non-compliance persists, the employee should escalate to their immediate supervisor*.

**Non-compliance of this policy, like any policy, will result in progressive discipline. Information specific to Gaston County: Gaston County will be tobacco-free within any public access area. This begins July 2020, and as an agency in this location, the penalty of not following the tobacco-free ordinance will result in fines directly assigned to McLeod Centers.*

4. Support for McLeod Employees

Education, training, and support will be provided to employees who will be incorporating nicotine cessation into existing treatment modalities. Employees covered under the McLeod Centers health plan will receive access to tobacco treatment services plus referrals to any existing community-based support services with the assistance of our Human Resources Department.

5. Support for Patients

As part of every admission/intake, patients are assessed for tobacco use and education is provided by the physician regarding the negative effects of tobacco. Patients with a history of tobacco use will be provided with referrals and educational resources.

6. Tobacco Products Prohibited by this Policy

Any tobacco or nicotine delivery system that can be smoked, inhaled, vaporized, or ingested through the mouth. Examples include but are not limited to cigarettes, electronic cigarettes or electronic smoking devices, cigars, cigarillos, pipes, dip, snuff, chewing tobacco, heated tobacco (brand name: IQOS), and Snus. Additionally, vaping of any kind, even if it not tobacco, is prohibited.

FDA Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) medications are excluded from this policy.

7. Resources

- NC Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch (<http://tobaccopreventionandcontrol.ncdhhs.gov/smokefreenc/edmaterials.htm>)
- NC Quitline (<http://www.quitlinenc.com/>) provides free sessions to stop using tobacco products. Quit coaching is available in different forms including access to replacement therapy medications.