



MENTAL HEALTH BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DATE OF ISSUE

June 15, 1993

EFFECTIVE DATE

August 1, 1993

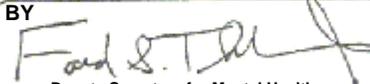
NUMBER

SMH-93-02

SUBJECT

Patient Smoking

BY


Deputy Secretary for Mental Health

SCOPE: State Mental Health Facilities

PURPOSE: To guide state mental health facilities concerning the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards for patients' smoking in an accredited facility.

POLICY: Each state mental health facility provides smoke free living areas for patients and their visitors. Ventilated and furnished designated smoking areas are conveniently located for those adult patients who use smoking materials.

There is a facility-wide policy governing smoking by patients which, at a minimum, assures:

1. No physician order is required for an adult patient to use smoking materials.
2. Patient smoking is not used to reward, discipline, control, or penalize any patient.
3. Smoking is not withheld for any period after the restraint or seclusion of a patient is ended.
4. Smoking is not limited to outdoor designated areas only.
5. Facility-wide policy is reviewed and monitored by the human/patient's rights committee.

DISCUSSION: The Office of Mental Health supports the principles of illness prevention and health advocacy embodied in the JCAHO's standards concerning smoking. However, some patients addicted to nicotine are hospitalized involuntarily and/or have extended lengths of stay.

In Pennsylvania, it is lawful for adults to purchase and use tobacco products; i.e., cigarettes, snuff, cigars, chewing tobacco, and

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Medical Director

717/ 772-2353. or Network 8/447-8011

pipe tobacco. Hospitalized adults are capable of making responsible personal choices about smoking.

State mental health facilities are encouraged to promote non-smoking among patients through smoking awareness and cessation programs. Individual or group programs may be offered to patients who wish to participate voluntarily. Physician prescribed pharmacologic aids to assist a patient to stop smoking may be recommended by the Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, approved by the medical staff, and added to the facility's drug formulary. Medical staff should review and approve training and treatment programs. Documentation of Services

Designated areas for smoking are required in state mental hospitals and other facilities operated by the Department. This DPW standard is intended to assure health promotion and illness prevention for persons who do not smoke as well, as safety for all.

RELATED BULLETINS/REGULATIONS:

Management Directive #205.19, Smoking in Commonwealth Buildings and Facilities, February 17, 1989

DPW Personnel Manual Section 7170.7, Smoking in Commonwealth Buildings and Facilities

DPW Personnel Manual Section 7174.5, Tables of Maximum Disciplinary/Corrective Action Which May Be Imposed

RESOURCE/AUTHORITIES for TRAINING/TREATMENT PROGRAMS:

Applied Tobacco Research Section Telephone: 301/496-0273
National Cancer Institute
Executive Plaza North, Room 241
9000 Rockville Pike
Bethesda, Maryland 20892

American Cancer Society Telephone: 404/329-7652
1599 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

MMWR [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report], Volume 41, No. 35, September 4, 1992 (Public Health Focus: Effectiveness of Smoking-Control Strategies - United States; pages 645-647); provides summary information of the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of smoking-cessation strategies.