



An Open Letter to the Community

On January 1, 2007, the entire Clinch Valley Medical Center campus will be tobacco-free. This new policy applies to all buildings on our campus, including the Medical Plaza doctors' office building, and to all surrounding areas – including sidewalks, lawns, stairs, doorways and while walking through parking lots.

The no-smoking, no-tobacco policy applies to staff, physicians, patients, visitors and all others who come to CVMC. ***If you use tobacco, your doctor can medically manage your withdrawal symptoms while you are a patient here. All others, including visitors, must leave the hospital grounds or go to your personal vehicle*** if you wish to use tobacco of any kind. This new policy is approved by the hospital Board of Trustees and endorsed by the CVMC Medical Staff.

CVMC is implementing this policy because, as healthcare providers, we strongly feel **we cannot advise our patients and communities on the documented health dangers of tobacco while continuing to allow it on our campus.** This decision was made for the health and safety of you and others.

No one is being told to stop smoking or using other tobacco, just to refrain from its use while on hospital property. For people who do wish to quit, especially members of our staff, this policy helps by removing many of the “triggers” that make quitting more difficult. For example, the smoke huts will be gone and all break areas will now be tobacco free. Also, the smell of smoke in the air and on clothing will be sharply reduced and less likely to prompt cravings.

We pledge to stop the conflicting message of counseling patients to quit tobacco while enabling its use. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

CVMC Administration & the CVMC Leadership Team