

The Chattanooga Heart Institute Tobacco Free Policy

Effective October 1, 2007, The Chattanooga Heart Institute has been designated as a tobacco-free facility. The success of the policy will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of all tobacco users and non-users alike.

As a healthcare leader, it is CHI's mission to promote the creation of healthier communities, and to set the standard for and demonstrate healthy lifestyles. Tobacco use is widely recognized as a major preventable cause of many diseases in smokers and nonsmokers alike. CHI is committed to providing a safe, healthy, comfortable and productive environment for all who visit or work in and around our facilities.

1. Smoking or otherwise using tobacco products (including cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, pipes, etc.) on company time or property is prohibited.
2. Prohibition includes any and all buildings, owned, leased, rented or areas maintained by the CHI; any grounds, parking lots, ramps, sidewalks or plazas owned, or leased; or in vehicles owned, or leased by the CHI.
3. Tobacco use in any vehicle by any employee when on CHI property is prohibited.
4. Tobacco use in vehicles by visitors while on CHI property is discouraged.
5. This policy applies to all off-facility sites including clinics, office buildings or any CHI programs operated offsite.
6. There are no designated smoking areas within any CHI property or grounds. Ash receptacles and spittoons shall not be available on premises.
7. All employees, physicians, students, visitors, patients, vendors, contract workers, volunteers or any person coming on grounds or to the facility must comply with this policy.
8. All CHI employees, while on company time, though off property and representing the institution in any capacity, shall not use tobacco products. Adherence to this policy requires that tobacco users refrain from using these products while on facilities and when at work on company business.
9. The policy complies with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 17, Section 39-17-1801, known as the "Non-Smoker Protection Act of 2007," and is designed to prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places within the State of Tennessee.
10. Those who smoke or use tobacco products shall ensure that the odor of tobacco on their person is not objectionable to patients, visitors or employees when on CHI property.
11. Employees who violate the policy will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination in accordance with the CHI's Human Resources Corrective Action Policy.
12. Tools are available to assist in dealing with infringement issues and are appropriate for each group, e.g., patient, visitor, employee etc.
13. Violation by employees will be documented and sent to the individual's department manager or supervisor.
14. Information on smoking cessation support resources is available upon request.