

Tobacco-free Policy

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute (LRMC&HI) is committed to providing a safe, clean and healthy environment for patients, employees, medical staff, volunteers, and students. To support this commitment and in response to studies that indicate that the use of tobacco is a leading cause of preventable illness and premature death, the purpose of this policy is to outline LRMCH&HI's approach to the use of tobacco in buildings, property and vehicles located on both the main and Pavilion campuses.

Scope: This policy applies to all employees, medical staff, volunteers, students, contract workers, patients, visitors, and vendors.

Definitions:

Use of tobacco: Is defined as use of any cigarette, cigar, pipe and smokeless or other tobacco products.

Tobacco-free: The term "tobacco-free" is defined as a total ban on tobacco, as defined above, in the facility including but not limited to grounds, parking lots, ramps, plazas, owned/leased vehicles, or other vehicles on campus, and sidewalks adjacent to LRMCH&HI properties by patients, visitors, staff, physicians, volunteers, and students and vendors.

Main Campus: Is defined as main building, back buildings and all parking areas.

Pavilion Campus: Is defined as main building, conference room building and all parking areas.

Policy:

Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute, as a health care provider, is committed to the promotion of health, which includes the prevention of disease as well as its treatment. Smoking is a known major cause of preventable disease and death in the United States. Therefore, the Board of Trustees and the Administrative staff support a "tobacco-free campus" and all elements of the procedure as outlined below.

All individuals are prohibited to use tobacco products in, on or in the vicinity of all LRMCH&HI buildings, grounds, parking lots, ramps, plazas, owned/leased vehicles, or other vehicles on campus and sidewalks adjacent to LRMCH&HI properties.

Patients: Patients are prohibited from using tobacco products in, on or in the vicinity of all LRMCH&HI buildings, grounds, parking lots, ramps, plazas, owned/leased vehicles, or other vehicles on campus and sidewalks adjacent to LRMCH&HI properties. This policy is intended to eliminate the use of tobacco and reduce risks to patients who use tobacco, including reducing possible adverse effects on treatment; reducing risks of passive smoking for others; and reducing the risk of fire. Nicotine replacement therapy (patch and gum) will be available to the patient with a physician orders.

If a patient is leaving the unit to use tobacco products, the nurse must inform the patient that should he/she choose to leave it will be considered leaving "against medical advice (AMA)". Any patient wishing to return to the unit must go through the Emergency Department as a new patient.

Patients who are admitted to the Inpatient Psychiatric Services Unit are exempt from this policy and may smoke within designated locations and times at the Pavilion.

Visitors: Visitors are prohibited from use of tobacco on or in the vicinity of all LRMCH&HI buildings, grounds, parking lots, ramps, plazas, owned/leased vehicles, or other vehicles on campus and sidewalks adjacent to LRMCH&HI properties.

Upon request tobacco/smoking cessation information and assistance shall be provided to patients, employees, and physicians.

Thank you for helping us to maintain a safe, clean, healthy environment for our patients.