

***“Of the 123 hospitals in Wisconsin, over 95% have tobacco-free campuses.”***

As a healthcare organization, BAMC is committed to the health and safety of our employees and patients. Tobacco use is the number one cause of preventable death, as well as preventable disease, in the United States. BAMC believes that we have a responsibility to take a leadership role in our community on this major health issue; allowing people to use tobacco products on our campus defeats this purpose.

According to the Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention (CTRI) at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, more Wisconsin residents die every year from disease directly caused by cigarette smoking than from AIDS, illegal drugs, alcohol, suicide and homicide combined. Smoking costs the Wisconsin economy \$3 billion per year, including \$1.6 billion in direct health care costs and \$1.4 billion in lost worker productivity. Health insurance premiums are higher because of these expenses. There are 800,000 smokers in Wisconsin, representing 22 percent of all state residents. CTRI reports that more than 70 percent of Wisconsin smokers want to quit and 50 percent try each year.

The Tobacco-free Policy at BAMC was developed over the last year with the help of the MNA and AFSME negotiating teams, the BAMC Wellness Committee, members of the Human Resources, Facilities, and Public Relations departments, and senior management discussions with other hospitals and the Wisconsin Hospital Association.

The policy applies to all patients, employees, students, visitors, contractors, volunteers, and physicians. There are no exceptions to this policy. It means simply that the use of tobacco products on or in BAMC owned or leased property will not be allowed. The BAMC campus includes all areas in which BAMC operates, including our property and buildings, company-owned or leased property and equipment, company vehicles, privately owned vehicles entering or parked on the property, or in use on the property, lockers, desks, equipment, work space, parking lots, and storage facilities. This includes the Hospital, the Mobility Center, the Sleep Center, the Financial Services Building and our locations in Stephenson and Crivitz.

We know that visitors at the hospital are often under unusual stress. We also know that the majority of smokers, no matter their level of dependence, recognize that smoking at a hospital is counter productive to the health of our patients, our patient’s family members, community members and our employees. Patients and guests who smoke will be provided with information about resources to help them quit smoking on a permanent basis, and our gift shop will be stocked with products to assist our guests in those efforts.

BAMC is also working with physicians on ways to provide nicotine replacement therapy for our patients during their stay. Upon admission, patients are encouraged to notify the admissions staff if they use tobacco products. This information will be forwarded to their physician who can make arrangements to provide them with tobacco cessation products or discuss alternative resources.

BAMC is not forcing anyone to quit smoking. We are saying that you can not use tobacco products on hospital property. Information and resources are offered to anyone who wants help in quitting, including a toll-free Smoking Quit Line sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, available from 9:00AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Friday. For more information about the BAMC Tobacco-free Policy or smoking cessation programs, go to [BAMC.org](http://BAMC.org).