

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board - No Smoking Enforcement

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why can't I smoke outside on hospital grounds?**

Hospital grounds are smoke-free by law in Wales. It has been illegal to smoke on hospital grounds since 2021. By making our sites smoke free we are protecting our staff, patients and visitors from second hand smoke.

- **What is second hand smoke?**

This is the smoke exhaled when someone smokes, plus the 'side stream' smoke created by the lit end of a cigarette.

- **Will I get a fine if I smoke on hospital grounds?**

Yes. No Smoking Enforcement Officers will start patrolling our sites in November 2025. There will be an educational phase at first where officers will ask smokers to extinguish their cigarettes, advise them of the law and signpost to support to quit. This will be followed by full implementation when officers will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice of £100 to anyone smoking on hospital grounds. The person issued with the Fixed Penalty Notice will be required to pay a fine of £100.

- **I have been issued a £100 FPN for smoking on hospital grounds. I don't agree with this what do I do?**

If you do not pay the £100 FPN the matter will be escalated to the courts for criminal proceedings. At court you will have the opportunity to set out your defence to the judge as to why you do not agree.

- **What happens if someone has been issued an FPN and is found smoking on hospital grounds for a second time by a No Smoking Enforcement Officer?**

A repeat offence will result in the matter being escalated to the courts for criminal proceedings.

- **Can I vape on hospital grounds?**

Vaping is not permitted inside hospital buildings. It is not illegal to use a vape outside on hospital grounds. People using vapes will not be issued an FPN. We ask people to vape responsibly and not gather in doorways and near windows where vapour will drift into buildings.

- **I am an in patient. Can I charge my vape on the ward when I am in in hospital?**

No. Charging vapes within general wards and areas where there are supplies of oxygen or flammable gases is strictly prohibited due to safety concerns. The batteries in vapes are prone to overheating, leading to intense fires. Ask your medical team for Nicotine Replacement Therapy as an alternative.

- **What do I do if I need to have a cigarette?**

If you need to smoke please leave the hospital grounds. We ask you to be considerate of our neighbours and dispose of cigarette waste responsibly.

- **What can I do if I am a patient and need to stay in hospital?**

We understand that smoking is an addiction. All patients will be asked if they smoke when they are admitted to hospital. You will be given Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) to help with cravings and make you comfortable during your stay. Please speak to your medical team.

- **I want to quit where can I get support?**

You are three times more likely to quit with NHS support than quitting alone. 'Help Me Quit' is the free NHS stop smoking service in Wales. Expert staff can provide support, nicotine replacement products such as gums and patches and prescribed medication.

For more information visit: [About Help Me Quit - Help Me Quit](#) or phone 0800 085 2219 text 80818

Support is also available from 'Help Me Quit in Hospital – in house smoking cessation service' who can support in patients, outpatients and staff to quit.

Contact Helen Poole – 029 218 43582 Helen.Poole@wales.nhs.uk

- **I work in a hospital. Will my line manager be notified if have been issued a £100 fine for smoking on hospital grounds?**

Yes. As well as being illegal smoking is not permitted on hospital grounds in accordance with Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's 'No Smoking and Smoke free Environment Policy'. Smoking is prohibited and staff must adhere to the Smoke Free Environment Policy. Staff smoking on hospital grounds will be reported to their line manager in accordance with the All Wales Disciplinary Policy.

- **Can I smoke in my car when it is parked on hospital grounds?**

No. It is illegal to smoke anywhere on hospital grounds.

- **Will I lose my job if I am issued an FPN?**

Staff will be reported to their line manager for smoking on hospital grounds. A 'Staff smoking incident form' will be completed and sent to your line manager and People Services. In line with Disciplinary Policy and Procedure your line manager will complete an initial assessment. This will inform the next steps in the disciplinary process. If there are repeat offences of a member of staff smoking, depending on circumstances and timescale there may be escalation of sanctions within the Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

- **What happens if a member of staff is seen smoking when they are not on a hospital site, but wearing their Cardiff and Vale UHB Uniform?**

In line with the Cardiff and Vale UHB uniform policy, where changing facilities are available, staff must change out of their uniform at the end of shift before leaving their place of work. Where changing facilities are not available, staff should ensure their uniform is covered before leaving their place of work. Staff who are permitted to wear a uniform to and from work should keep it covered while travelling.