

Per Niagara Health’s Smoke-Free Policy:

Niagara Health is committed to the promotion of the health and well-being of all Members of the Hospital Community. Given the serious health hazards of smoking, Niagara Health is smoke-free.

Clients will be informed of the policy upon entry to any hospital service (inpatient and outpatient). The key messages of the Smoke-Free Policy and tobacco reduction support to manage withdrawal including nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and other appropriate strategies available during the patient’s hospital stay will be reviewed and a Patient Information Card will be provided (SmokeFree Policy Patient Information Card).

All Members of the Hospital Community are required to comply with this policy, and accordingly, they cannot smoke or vape tobacco or electronic cigarette products on hospital property.

Clients who do not comply with Niagara Health’s Smoke-Free policy will be respectfully reminded and requested to stop using tobacco products immediately, and if this use continues after the request has been made we will:

- a) Complete a “Hospital Offence Notice” referral form and send this to the Niagara Region Public Health’s Tobacco Control Program and/or
- b) Contact the Tobacco Hotline to file a formal complaint at 905-688-8248 ext. 7393

Withdrawal Management Services – Client Tobacco Smoking Agreement

Withdrawal Management Services will permit clients to have access to tobacco smoking breaks at set times, with specified and agreed-upon parameters.

- Please note, that Niagara Health does not recommend or endorse smoking, and this is to be done at the client’s own risk, with accompanying health teaching.
- Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) is still offered and encouraged at WMS.

If a client wishes to continue smoking tobacco while attending WMS:

- Smoking breaks will occur only at specific times daily and are subject to change at the discretion of staff depending on the needs and acuity of the unit. Additionally, if a client is unable to attend the smoking break, they will attend the following scheduled break and not be offered an alternative time.
- Smoking breaks will not be available until staff have deemed a client clinically stable enough to do so (i.e. not in acute/active withdrawal when medications are being administered).
- Smoking breaks will be supervised by a WMS staff member, and may not be available if the unit is unable to accommodate staffing support. Staff do not have to accompany the client to the smoking area, but clients must be visible to a staff member at all times.
- Smoking breaks are a privilege and may be revoked at the staff’s discretion when appropriate for the safety of clients or staff.
- Clients are to smoke in the designated WMS smoking area, along the back fence of the parking lot, away from the WMS building.
- Clients are not to leave the designated WMS smoking area or interact with any members of the public, including residents of Safe Beds.
- Clients are to return to WMS as soon as requested by staff, and the duration of the break depends on the demands of the unit.
- Clients may be subject to search by staff upon each re-entry to the building after smoking breaks.
- Clients may only smoke cigarettes from their own supply. There can be no loaning or borrowing.
- Cigarettes must be in their original wrapped packaging.

SIGNATURES REQUIRED ON THE NEXT PAGE

- Cigarettes/vapes will be kept locked in the care station, and are to be accessible only to staff.
- Clients are only permitted to smoke tobacco products, and any vape pens/products must be clearly labelled as containing nicotine.
- Clients identified as men and women from WMS are not to take concurrent smoking breaks and are not to interact.
- Smoking breaks are also weather-permitting for the safety of clients and staff.

Tentative Smoking Break Times:

Note: *The timing of these smoking breaks is again at the discretion of staff and is subject to change depending on the needs and acuity of the unit.*

Men’s WMS Smoking Breaks	Women’s WMS Smoking Breaks
8:00 – 8:15 am	8:30 – 8:45 am
12:45 – 1:00 pm	1:15 – 1:30 pm
5:30 – 5:45 pm	6:00 – 6:15 pm
10:30 – 10:45 pm	11:00 – 11:15 pm

Should a client not want to remain in the care of WMS and decide to discharge themselves rather than comply with Niagara Health’s Smoke-Free policy, and with the outlined WMS smoking regulations, staff must document this occurrence and interaction. If staff have concerns for the client’s safety and well-being if choosing to leave WMS, clients will be asked to sign an AMA (Against Medical Advice) Form.

Client Name (Printed):

Client Signature:

Staff Name (Printed):

Staff Signature:

Date:
