



The Healthy Hospital Initiative helps hospitals establish 100% tobacco-free campuses, provide comprehensive cessation support, and build tobacco-free communities.



## Key Talking Points for the Healthy Hospital Initiative

### Fundamental Purpose of the Healthy Hospital Initiative

- Hospitals are ideal role models of healthy environments within the community. The Initiative for hospitals to become 100% tobacco-free campus wide supports this goal by protecting patients, employees, and visitors from any exposure to second-hand smoke. According to a recent U.S. Surgeon General Report, there is no safe level of exposure to tobacco smoke. Therefore, a 100% tobacco-free campus wide policy is the only option.
- These policies include parking lots, sidewalks, lawn areas, and all hospital-owned properties.

### NC Hospital Involvement

- 108 NC hospitals have passed the 100% tobacco-free campus wide policy.
- 13 NC hospitals have publicly announced they will do so in the near future.
- An additional 3 hospitals are actively working on adopting the policy.
- A group of NC's largest hospitals went tobacco-free campus wide in July of 2007, including Baptist Hospital, UNC Hospitals, WakeMed, Duke University Hospital, and Rex Healthcare.
- NC is a national leader in the number of hospitals that have passed policies to become 100% tobacco-free campus wide.

### Benefits of a 100% Tobacco-free Campus Wide Policy

- This policy showcases the hospital's role as a community leader in protecting the health of the public and motivates others to do likewise.
- By encouraging employees to quit and preventing secondhand smoke exposure, the Initiative reduces healthcare costs due to illnesses caused by tobacco use and exposure, and reduces expenses incurred by loss of productivity and absenteeism.
- By increasing the number of tobacco-free environments, the policy supports people in quitting the use of tobacco. Hospitals are increasing and enhancing the cessation benefits and resources they offer to their employees to help them successfully quit.

### Background

- In 2003, the first hospital in NC went tobacco-free campus wide. Today, 108 of the 134 acute-care hospitals in NC have passed the 100% tobacco-free campus wide policy.
- More than 90% of hospitals are currently working on this issue. Our goal is for 100% (of the hospitals) to be 100% (tobacco-free).
- NC Prevention Partners, in partnership with the NC Hospital Association's foundation, is funded by The Duke Endowment to assist hospitals in this policy initiative.
- Many states have passed laws mandating that all worksites be tobacco-free. However, NC is a national leader in creating hospitals that are tobacco-free campus wide and providing cessation support to employees, patients and visitors.

The *Healthy Hospital Initiative*, a program of NC Prevention Partners in partnership with the NC Hospital Association's foundation, is funded by The Duke Endowment.

For assistance, contact Melva Fager Okun, DrPH, at 919.969.7022, ext. 202 / [melva@ncpreventionpartners.org](mailto:melva@ncpreventionpartners.org).  
[www.healthyhospital.org](http://www.healthyhospital.org)