

Temiskaming Hospital

July 16, 2008

Temiskaming Hospital's No Smoking Policy for Visitors and Outpatients

In 2001, Temiskaming Hospital implemented a policy which prohibited smoking on the hospital property by visitors and outpatients. At that time Butt Stop receptacles were provided on the pillars closest to the parking lot for smokers to deposit their cigarette butts.

Despite having this policy in place, smoking at Temiskaming Hospital continued to be an issue. Therefore, a decision was made by the Hospital Board of Directors in 2006, that when entering hospital property, including the parking lot(s), smoking would not be permitted. Today smoking continues to be a problem and signage has been increased at the entrance to the parking lot to educate the public on the hospital policy.

As a hospital, promoting healthy initiatives is an important function and one that prompted the decision to prohibit smoking by visitors and outpatients. Second hand smoke negatively affects the health of others and it is important for the hospital to limit this. Visitors and outpatients are at the hospital for just a few hours, and it is seen to be reasonable to request that they not smoke for that time period.

Hospital inpatients are currently permitted to smoke on hospital property, but only in one designated courtyard. Inpatients can be here for days at a time – sometimes even months or years and for that reason the decision was made to accommodate their choice to smoke. Some hospitals have banned smoking entirely on their property, and Temiskaming Hospital will need to review this in the near future.

In the coming weeks and months, you can expect to see additional signage with respect to “butting out” prior to entering the hospital parking lot(s) and property.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all visitors and outpatients for respecting Temiskaming Hospital's No Smoking policy.



Temiskaming Hospital
(705) 647-8121
www.temihosp.on.ca

Visiting Hours:

- 1000 to 2000 hours for medical patients, surgical patients and Long-Term Care patients;
- 1400 to 1600 hours and 1800 to 2000 hours for obstetrics;
- Visitors to the Special Care Unit (SCU) are restricted to immediate family and/or significant other(s).