



Memorandum

To: Physician Office Building Office Managers
From: Clarence McDavid, Vice President Human Resources
Date: December 10, 2009
Subject: Smoking Around Physician Office Buildings

On August 8, 2008 HealthONE implemented its Tobacco Free policy. This policy specifically states that tobacco products of any type may not be used on HealthONE property. This policy applies to employees, visitors, patients, physicians, and staff of physician offices. One of the things that we emphasized when this policy was implemented is the importance of being a good neighbor. This means that we do not smoke or use tobacco on the property of our neighbors nor discard our tobacco materials on our neighbor's property.

Denver City Councilwoman Carol Boigon introduced on August 15, 2008, the Smoke Free Hospital Ordinance. On August 22, 2008 Ordinance 436 successfully passed. It became effective on November 22, 2008. The ordinance prohibits smoking on city property surrounding hospitals and buildings owned or leased by hospitals. This includes sidewalks, parkways, gutters and alleys. Her concern was what she described as unhealthy conditions for those who are coming to the hospitals for their healthcare.

We have received complaints that staff members of the physician offices are disregarding the HealthONE Tobacco Free policy and the Smoke Free Hospital Ordinance. Patients and doctors' offices are complaining about smokers around the buildings, and cigarette smoke coming into building vents and into the offices. They complain that smokers are disregarding requests to use tobacco elsewhere. What is most concerning is when asked to discontinue smoking the smokers have refused and become confrontational. This situation is unacceptable.

Please be aware that it is our intent to fully enforce the Tobacco Free policy. We will also comply with the Smoke Free Hospital Ordinance. It is our intent to provide a healthy environment for anyone who enters into our buildings. We ask once again that you inform your staff of the importance of their compliance. Those who do not comply will be reported to the physician's office for which they work. If someone becomes confrontational we will report the matter to the Denver Police Department and let them address the issue.

This is a serious matter. We appreciate your assistance in addressing it immediately.