



The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Trust Smoke Free Policy aims to protect the health of staff, visitors, patients and service users. We have a duty to provide staff with a clean, safe and healthy environment. Being smoke free protects the health of everyone, provides a clean and pleasant environment, and improves safety on the site.



What does the new smoke free policy mean?

In order to ensure a smoke free NIAS environment, smoking is not permitted anywhere on the NIAS Trust grounds or premises - this includes buildings, entrances, pavements and car parks. No smoking on site for staff and all contracted workers.

Why are we going smoke free?

To save lives over the next decade by reducing exposure to hazardous second-hand smoke;

To protect and improve the health of staff, visitors and contractors by countering the health risks caused by tobacco smoke;

To assist staff who wish to stop smoking by ensuring smoking cessation support is widely available to staff;

To set an example of best practice;

To recognise a person's right to be protected from harm and to enjoy smoke free air;

To increase the benefits of smoke free enclosed public places and workplaces for people trying to give up smoking so that they can succeed in an environment where social pressures to smoke are reduced.

What is different from the last smoke free policy?

Smoking will not be permitted anywhere on its grounds or premises. This includes buildings, entrances, pavements and car parks. No smoking will be allowed on site for staff, members of the public and contracted workers. There will be **NO** smoking shelters on site and staff will not be allowed to smoke in their cars on site.



How is the smoke free policy going to be enforced?

Every NIAS Trust employee has a responsibility to ensure compliance with and implementation of the smoke free policy. Staff should take pride in working in a smoke free environment and ask anyone they see smoking to “stub it out” and advise them about our smoke free policy.

If a member of staff sees someone smoking on site, the following actions are recommended, in a polite and courteous manner:

Draw the individual’s attention to the “no smoking” signs

Explain that the Trust is implementing a smoke free policy to ensure a safe working environment for everyone.

Staff are not expected to get involved in conflict situations in order to enforce the policy.

Any difficulties with implementation of the policy should be reported to your relevant line manager for appropriate action / reporting.

What sanctions are going to be applied to anyone in breach of the policy?

Anyone smoking on site will be asked to “stub out the cigarette” and given information about the stop smoking services available.

Any employee who breaches this Smoke Free Policy will be reported to their line manager and may be disciplined in accordance with the Trust’s Disciplinary Procedure.





What about e-cigs?

Electronic cigs or electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) are devices which deliver to the lungs of the user, a chemical mixture typically composed of nicotine, propylene glycol and other chemicals, although some products claim to contain no nicotine. The safety of ENDS has not been scientifically demonstrated yet, therefore the NIAS Trust smoke free policy prohibits the uses of E cigarettes on Trust buildings and grounds. This ban on the use of E cigs will be reviewed once further scientific evidence becomes available.

When will we become a smoke free Trust?

The NIAS Trust will become a smoke free Trust on **Wednesday 9 March 2016**, National No Smoking Day. We want to raise awareness in advance and to provide support to staff who want to stop smoking.

What if a staff member wants time to leave Trust grounds to smoke?

NIAS Trust staff can leave Trust grounds to smoke during their official breaks.

What should someone do if they see a member of staff smoking in their car?

Anyone smoking in their car will be asked to “stub out the cigarette” and given information about the stop smoking services available. Any employee who breaches this Smoke Free Policy will be reported to their line manager and may be disciplined in accordance with the Trust’s Disciplinary Procedure.

For help to stop smoking, please contact:

Southern Area

Tel: **028 3741 5333**

Email: stop.smoking@southerntrust.hscni.net

Western Area

Tel: **0800 9179 388**

South Eastern Area

Tel: **028 9250 1373**

Email: stop.smoking@setrust.hscni.net

Northern Area

Tel: **028 2563 5575**

Belfast

Tel: **028 9063 5215 or 028 9504 9951**

Alternatively, you can contact your GP, local Pharmacy, or visit: www.want2stop.info

