

Pediatric Office Policy: Tobacco

The pediatric effects of tobacco use and exposure are serious, pervasive and well-established; therefore, the Sample Pediatric Office Group is committed to reducing these threats to children's health. There is no safe way to use tobacco, and no safe level of tobacco exposure. The following policies are aligned with policies from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Practice, and the American Medical Association.

Terms and Definitions

Please note that the term "parent" refers to anyone acting in the role of a parent, including legal guardians, foster parents, others. The term "tobacco" includes all forms of tobacco, including smoked, smokeless, and electronic nicotine delivery devices (E cigarettes, vape pens, etc.). The term "tobacco control" includes efforts to reduce or eliminate tobacco use, except in legal and appropriate ceremonial uses. The term "community" refers to local, city, county, and state-level efforts.

Section One: Internal Sample Pediatric Office Group Policies

Sample Pediatric Group Employee Policies: Employee

1. Staff are prohibited from smoking or using tobacco products in any form (with the exception of nicotine replacement products used for tobacco cessation) while working their shift or representing the SPG. Use of tobacco products during a shift exposes patients, families, and other staff to 3rd hand tobacco toxins.
2. The SPG supports cessation efforts among employees and their families. *(May add more specifically here how the practice supports cessation. For example, by partnering with the local health department, providing NRT as a benefit, allowing staff to attend a cessation class while on the clock.)*

Sample Pediatric Group Policies: Organizational

1. The Sample Pediatric Group (SPG) prohibits smoking and the use of tobacco products on all SPG premises, including all meetings.
2. SPG is committed to screening all patients for tobacco exposure and use.
3. SPG is committed to educating children, parents, and families about the dangers of tobacco use and exposure through educational signage, written supplemental material, and use of the 3 A's - Ask, Advise, Assist.
4. SPG promotes and encourages smoke-free cars and homes.
5. SPG is committed to be part of the community of anti-tobacco consistent messaging to prevent tobacco use and exposure.
6. Whenever available, SPG will use smoke-free conference centers and hotels for its functions.

7. Whenever possible, the SPG will avoid relationships with advertising and media who accept tobacco advertising. The SPG prohibits magazines and other reading materials containing tobacco advertising on its premises.

8. SPG does not directly invest in any company that sells, manufactures, or promotes tobacco products. All holdings will be examined annually to ensure this to remains true, and if found, will divest of these holdings as soon as possible.

9. SPG joins the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Practice and the American Medical Association in their efforts to reduce tobacco use and exposure, especially in children and families.

Section Two: External Sample Pediatric Office Group Policies

1. SPG supports community involvement in educating leaders and encouraging the adoption and implementation of evidence-based tobacco control and sound policies to protect public health.

2. SPG supports school health programs that educate students and parents about the dangers of tobacco use and exposure, as well as resisting tobacco advertising. SPG recommends that all campuses be tobacco-free and that faculty and staff remain tobacco free during work hours, whenever they are on campus, and any time they represent the school, to avoid exposing students and other staff to 3rd hand smoke toxins or giving students the impression that tobacco use is a responsible or necessary part of adulthood.

3. SPG opposes all forms of tobacco advertising and tobacco-friendly media, particularly those that target children, adolescents, young adults, minorities and low socio-economic areas.

4. SPG promotes tobacco-free futures for all of its patients, families, and communities.

5. SPG promotes and supports tobacco-free legislation that protects public health, including smoke-free cars when minors are present.