ELECTRONIC CIGARETTE MANAGEMENT

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Date of Issue:	June 2014	**Next Review Date:**	June 2017
Version:	1	**Last Review Date:**	
Author:	Health and Safety Manager		
Directorate:	Estates and Facilities Management		
Approval Route: Mandated by Department of Health			
Approved By:		**Date Approved:**	
Department of Health EFA/2014/002		16 June 2014	
To be noted by Health and Safety Committee			
Links or overlaps with other policies:			
Health and Safety Policy			
Fire Safety Policy			

Amendment History

Issue	Status	Date	Reason for Change	Authorised

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Please note:

If you require a copy of this policy in an alternative format (for example Large Print, Easy Read) or would like any assistance in relation to the content of this policy, please contact the Human Resources (HR) team on 01803 656680.

1. Policy Statement

It is the Trusts policy to do all that is reasonable and practicable to prevent personal injury and damage to property from the effects of fire and to protect everyone from foreseeable fire hazards.

In order to reduce the risk of fire and to ensure the Trusts are meeting their obligations under the Health and Safety Legislation the Trusts position is that:

- Electronic cigarettes must **not** be used, charged or their batteries charged within any SDHCFT / TSDHCT buildings or Trusts vehicles

- In the Homecare situation electronic cigarettes should not be used whilst a patient is undergoing oxygen therapy and batteries of electronic cigarettes should not be charged in the vicinity of a patient undergoing oxygen therapy or the oxygen source itself

2. Definition of an Electronic Cigarette (e-cigarette)

Electronic cigarettes may be defined as devices whose function is to vaporise and deliver to the lungs of the user a chemical mixture typically composed of nicotine, propylene glycol and other chemicals and work on the principle of a heating element that vaporises a liquid solution which is inhaled. Electronic cigarettes include a power source, either a USB connector or a separate battery charger.

3. Rationale

A large number of incidents involving these devices have been reported nationally:

- The Department of Health have issued an Estates and Facilities Alert identifying the Problems and Actions to be taken

- Mounting evidence and actual events (fires) are causing concern to Fire Services countywide

- Suppliers of oxygen to healthcare providers also indicate that there is a risk of an ignition from an electronic cigarette whilst a patient is undergoing oxygen therapy

4. Responsibilities

4.1 All employees

To adhere to and comply with this policy at all times.

4.2 All managers

To ensure the policy is actioned and managed in the workplace, if any member of staff fails to comply with the policy the Human Resource disciplinary procedure will be initiated.

4.3 Public

Any member of the public using an e-cigarette in contravention of this policy must be advised on the policy and requested to abstain. If they refuse and continue they will be escorted by security out of the building.

5. References

5.1 Health and Safety Policy
5.2 Fire Safety Policy
5.3 Department of Health Estates and Facilities Alert EFA/2014/002 Dated 16 June 2014
5.4 European Industrial Gases Association Safety Info 32/13

6. Further Information

Any queries or questions relating to this document or matters around Fire Safety should be referred to the Fire Manager.