



HEALTH ADMINISTRATION CIRCULAR

Ministry of Health

Circular No.: 7/2012

Jerusalem, 14 Shevat, 5772
February 7, 2012

File No.: 1.10.200

Messrs: Hospital Directors
Directors of the Medical Divisions – the HMOs

Re: Prohibition on smoking in hospitals and clinics

Reference: Our Circular No. 46/2001, dated August 5, 2001
Our Circular No. 26/2004, dated June 22, 2004

Further to the referenced Circulars, the following are a number of important relevant emphases:

1. Prohibition on smoking in hospital and clinic buildings:

Smoking within a hospital or clinic building is strictly prohibited. hospital director is also entitled to prohibit smoking in the internal premises and in open passageways.

Pursuant to the abovementioned ban, the allocation of smoking rooms or smoking areas within a hospital or clinic building as set forth above is prohibited, as also within the vestibules thereof, and in corridors or stairwells. It is stated that neither is any smoking room to be allocated in a restaurant, coffee shop and so forth, being situate within the hospital building.

In exceptional cases, a hospital/ clinic director may permit smoking on certain verandas, provided that the smoking does not constitute a nuisance elsewhere in the building.

2. Responsibility of the hospital/ clinic director

hospital/ clinic director must arrange for the initiation of regular control and enforcement operations, and must ascertain compliance with this Circular.

3. Smoking areas outside the buildings

Smoking areas are to be arranged outside the building, and should preferably afford protection from sun and rain, as well as proper seating and an ashtray. Smoking areas should be located at least 10 meters from the entrances to the building, so as to prevent smokers from assembling at the entrance to the hospital or the clinic.

4. Appointment of wardens:

hospital director shall appoint volunteer wardens (“smoking prevention trustees”) to ensure the application of the Prohibition on Smoking Law within the hospital building and the clinics within its precincts. These wardens will approach smokers, explain to them the legal provisions prohibiting smoking in the building and direct them to the smoking areas outside the building. number of wardens and their deployment throughout the area of the hospital will be as needed for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Law in the hospital.

By way of clarification it is stated that such wardens are not empowered to fine smokers.

5. Establishing contact with the local authority

director of the hospital/ clinic shall maintain contact with the local authority for the purpose of coordinating arrangements for the enforcement of the Law by municipal inspectors, who shall be available to the hospital. It is recommended that these municipal inspectors be engaged in coordination with the hospital’s security department.

management of the hospital or the clinic, in instances in which they have been unable to arrive at the necessary coordination with the local authority, may approach the Ministry of Health, the Health Education & Promotion Division, the Smoking Prevention Unit, in order to obtain assistance with coordination vis-à-vis the local authority.

Kindly forward the content of this Circular to all parties concerned in your institution.

Yours truly,
Signed: (-)
Prof. Arnon Afek
Director of Health Division

cc:

Director-General
Deputy Director-General
Senior Vice President Administration & Human Resources
Senior VP Planning, Development & Construction of Medical Facilities
VP Health Economics
VP Planning, Budgeting & Pricing
VP HMOs
VP Information & Foreign Relations
Chief of the Medical Technologies & Infrastructures Division
Public Complaints Commissioner
Public Complaints Commissioner Pursuant to the National Health Insurance Law
Ministerial Controller
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Director of the Medical Records & Information Division
Director of the National Disease Control Centre
Director of the Emergency Division
Director of the Health Professions Division
Director of the Quality Assurance Division
Director of the Internal Audit Division
National Chief Psychologist
Chief Physiotherapist
National Supervisor of Occupational Therapy
Directors-General of the HMOs
Directors of the Medical Divisions – the HMOs
Director of the Medical Accessories & Instruments Division
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Director of the Epidemiology Division
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Director-General of the Medical Risks Management Corporation
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Reference: 07169812

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| The address of the Internet site on which the Circulars of the Medical Administration and the Director-General’s Circulars are published is: www.health.gov.il |
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