

# Document Details

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Details		
Type	Number	Revision
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Title		
Service User Smoking Policy		
Status	Filename	
Active	Policy on Service User Smoking	
Change Details		
policy created to outline risks associated with service user's smoking and how to reduce the fire hazards which may occur		
Active Date	Author	Owner
27/04/2020	Blower, Danielle	Administrator, System

## Distribution - Copy Holders

Person Name	Person Department Organisation	Notified Date
Blower, Danielle	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
Myles, Samantha	Support	27/04/2020 12:44
Larkin, Jennifer	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
O'Connor, Marina	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
Sullivan, Sandra	Training	27/04/2020 12:44
O'Connell, Clíodhna	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
McGeown, Yvonne	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
O'Donovan, Rowena	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
O'Flaherty, Debbie	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
O'Hagan, Maria	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
McCrystall, Donna	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
Kelly, Susanne	Myhomecare\Homecare Assessors	27/04/2020 12:44
McHugh, Molly	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44
Hill, Edel	Myhomecare\Homecare Assessors	27/04/2020 12:44
Doyle, Deirdre	Myhomecare	27/04/2020 12:44

## Change Requests


## Reviews

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## Reviews


## Revision History

Revision	Status	Change Details	Active Date
1	Active	policy created to outline risks associated with service user's smoking and how to reduce the fire hazards which may occur	27/04/2020

## Approval History


## Relationships

### Related Documents


### Related Departments


### Related Process


### Related Standards

Standard Description
Patient Safety Standard (JCI)
Patient Safety Standard (JCI)\Management & Safety of the Environment (MSE)
Patient Safety Standard (JCI)\Patient Family Education (PFE)



## Policy on Service Users' Smoking

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this policy is to outline the dangers that Service Users can face if they smoke in their own homes. Smoking can be extremely dangerous to a person's health and in some cases cause serious harm including accidental fire. Myhomecare will provide any Service User who wishes to quit smoking with information and guidance from the HSE.

However, if a Service User, or their live in family member / next of kin chooses to smoke Myhomecare will educate them on the dangers of smoking in their own home. Note Myhomecare has a no smoking policy that prohibits nursing or care staff to smoke while on duty.

### **Scope:**

This policy affects all Service Users and / or their live in family member and or next of kin who smoke as well as Myhomecare staff who provide education to the above on smoking.

### **Smoking in the Home:**

During the initial assessment carried out by Myhomecare of the Service User, they will ask the Service User do they or their live in family member smoke in the home? The answer will be recorded in the Service User's care plan. If the answer is yes, Myhomecare will explain the dangers associated with smoking, and provide information to the HSE's quit helpline. They will also educate them on the below practices on how to minimise risk.

If a Service User chooses to smoke, Myhomecare will educate them on the safety benefits of smoking outdoors. However, if they choose to smoke indoors, Myhomecare will educate them on the following, which will reduce the risk of a fire starting from cigarettes discarded incorrectly:

- Put your cigarette out in water or sand.
- Use deep sturdy ashtrays and don't put them on the couch or bed.
- Place ashtrays on a table away from other items that could catch fire.
- Make sure your ashtrays are cold before you discard them.
- Don't empty your ashtray in your trash in your home. Its good practice to have a metal bucket outside to empty them into.
- Finally have a working smoke alarm in your home. There should be a smoke alarm on each floor of your home and inside each bedroom.

Note Myhomecare can only educate Service User's on the importance of having a working smoke alarm. However, as the premises belongs to the Service User and not Myhomecare, we cannot force the Service User to install one.

### **Smoking in Bed:**

Service Users should not smoke in bed, this poses a high risk for their own and their live in family members safety. Smoking a cigarette in bed can be especially dangerous because a Service User can fall asleep while the cigarette is still lit and accidentally burn themselves or set fire to their bed linen or bedroom which may become a rapidly growing fire, due to the amount of soft furnishings usually found in the bedroom.

## Policy on Service Users' Smoking

### **Smoking while on Oxygen Therapy:**

Smoking while on Oxygen Therapy is extremely dangerous. Although oxygen is a safe, non-flammable gas, it does support combustion—in other words, some materials can readily catch fire and burn in the presence of oxygen. Portable oxygen concentrators deliver purified, concentrated air to the user because the user's lungs are incapable of working at their full potential. An open flame near such highly concentrated oxygen has a very high probability of catching fire. If a single spark catches the oxygen and meets a fuel source, such as a carpet, clothing etc., it will ignite and spread rapidly.

### **Electronic Cigarettes**

Electronic cigarettes include a power source, and this may be charged from a USB power port by using a separate battery charger. These items when saturated with oxygen may ignite. There may be a risk of ignition of an electric cigarette whilst a service user is undergoing oxygen therapy. As a result, electronic cigarettes should **NOT** be used while on oxygen therapy. In addition, batteries of electronic cigarettes should not be charged in the vicinity of the service users who is on oxygen therapy or the oxygen source itself. The service user should follow the same principles adopted while using a burning cigarette.

Never smoke or allow someone else to smoke nearby whilst using oxygen therapy. Smoking around oxygen is extremely dangerous and may cause clothing and hair to catch fire and burn much more vigorously than in air.

If service user wants to start smoking the oxygen concentrator/ or portable oxygen cylinder must be completely turned off. In the case of the Oxygen cylinder please ensure the plug is also out. The service user should be advised that smoking outdoors would be safer than smoking in another room within the home. Make sure to ventilate your clothing in open air for at least 20 minutes before smoking or going near an open flame or source of ignition.