

	POLICY Number: 7311-20-004 Title: Facilitation of Smudging Ceremonies
Authorization <input type="checkbox"/> President and CEO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vice President, Finance and Corporate Services	Source: Director, First Nations and Métis Health Services and Project Lead, Spiritual and Cultural Care Cross Index: 7311-20-001 Date Approved: April 11, 2016 Date Revised: Date Effective: May 5, 2016 Date Reaffirmed: Scope: SHR and Affiliates

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OVERVIEW

A Smudging Ceremony is a spiritual ceremony performed by some First Nations and Métis people and may be requested by both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal patients and their families while receiving health services in the Saskatoon Health Region (SHR).

DEFINITIONS

Cultural safety means an environment that is spiritually, socially and emotionally safe, as well as physically safe for people. It is about shared respect, shared meaning, shared knowledge and experience of learning together.¹

- Culturally safe practices include actions which recognize and respect the cultural identities of others, and safely meet their needs, expectations and rights.
- Culturally unsafe practices are those that "diminish, demean or disempower the cultural identity and well-being of an individual."²

Cultural support means Spiritual and Cultural Care Staff, First Nations and Métis Health Staff and/or spiritual leaders in the community.

Smudging is a spiritual ceremony using sweet grass, sage or cedar for spiritual purposes. It involves an open flame burning process that creates a relatively small amount of smoke and emits a noticeable aroma.

Staff means employees, affiliate employees, professional staff and practitioner staff.

¹ Cultural Safety – what does it mean for our work practice? Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 23(2), 213-214.

² Guidelines for Cultural Safety, the Treaty of Waitangi, and Maori health in Nursing Education and Practice. Nursing Council of New Zealand.

Traditional use of tobacco means tobacco used for ceremonies, prayers and rituals for spiritual significance and meaning.

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide culturally and spiritually appropriate care to patients and their families by supporting requests for Smudging Ceremonies.

2. PRINCIPLES

- 2.1** SHR respects the spiritual and cultural practices of First Nations and Métis and non-Aboriginal patients, clients, residents and families.
- 2.2** SHR honors and recognizes spiritual and cultural diversity.
- 2.3** Cultural safety is an outcome of culturally competent practices such as Smudging. Cultural safety is experienced by those who receive the ceremony (i.e. they feel safe).³

3. POLICY

- 3.1** SHR recognizes traditional use of tobacco, Smudging and pipe ceremonies as a spiritual, cultural and traditional way of life. Smudging and ceremonial burning ceremonies are accepted as common practice in SHR facilities.
- 3.2** SHR will facilitate Smudging requests from patients, clients, residents, family and staff with regard for safety (see procedure).
- 3.3** The importance of a Smudging Ceremony is held in the same regard as that of all other spiritual practices.
- 3.4** Smudging is permitted to take place on SHR grounds or where the patient/client or resident is located.
- 3.5** All overnight stay facilities/homes will have a designated Smudging area.
 - 3.5.1** Designated Smudging areas will include consideration of existing ventilation and fire safety in consultation with the site fire marshal and site maintenance manager.
 - 3.5.2** Designated areas are the preferred location however, Staff will facilitate Smudging requests in non-designated areas to the extent possible (see procedure).
- 3.6** Smudging is not permitted in a room in which oxygen is being used.⁴

³ <http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/working-together/aboriginal-terminology/>

⁴ Use of Medical Oxygen in a Dwelling Unit Saskatoon Fire Commissioner's Bulletin, #10 2008-06-26

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 All Staff

- 4.1.1 Be aware of this policy and associated procedures pertaining to traditional use of tobacco and Smudging.
- 4.1.2 Assist with facilitating Smudging requests (see procedure).

4.2 Spiritual and Cultural Care Staff/First Nations and Métis Health and

- 4.2.1 Facilitate and support requests for Smudging Ceremonies.

4.3 Site Leaders (or designate)

- 4.3.1 Ensure overnight stay facilities/homes have a designated Smudging area.
- 4.3.2 Establish site specific standard work in compliance with this policy and procedure and communicate to staff.

4.4 Facilities Management/Maintenance Staff

- 4.4.1 Assist with facilitating Smudging Ceremonies to ensure appropriate precautions for fire safety.

5. POLICY MANAGEMENT

The management of this policy including policy education, monitoring, implementation and amendment is the responsibility of the Director, First Nations and Métis Health Services and Project Lead, Spiritual and Cultural Care.

6. NON-COMPLIANCE/BREACH

Non-compliance with this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment and/or privileges with SHR.

7. REFERENCES

Aboriginal Terminology. <http://aboriginalhealth.vch.ca/working-together/aboriginal-terminology/> Vancouver Coastal Health.

Cultural Safety – what does it mean for our work practice? Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 1999.

Cultural Teachings: First Nations Protocols and Methodologies, Saskatchewan Indian Cultural Centre, 2009.

Guidelines for Cultural Safety, the Treaty of Waitangi, and Maori health in Nursing and Education and Practice. Nursing Council of New Zealand, 2002.

Saskatchewan Tobacco Control Act (2001), Part III subsection 11.3(c).

Use of Medical Oxygen in a Dwelling Unit Saskatoon. Fire Commissioner's Bulletin, #10, 2008.

PROCEDURE

Number: 7311-20-004

Title: Facilitation of Smudging Ceremonies

Authorization

- President and CEO
 Vice President, Finance and Corporate Services

Source: Director for Spiritual and Cultural Care and Director, First Nations and Métis Health
Cross Index:
Date Approved: April 11, 2016
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Date Reaffirmed:
Scope: SHR and Affiliates

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this procedure is to establish the process to facilitate requests for a Smudging Ceremony.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1 Designated Smudging Areas and Cultural Support

2.1.1 The following locations have been designated for Smudging within Saskatoon acute care facilities. These are the preferred locations.

- St. Paul's Hospital 5th floor Ceremonial Room A-Wing
- Royal University Hospital 4th floor Multi-Faith Room
- Saskatoon City Hospital Main Floor Multi-faith Room 1226
- Dube Centre Reflection Room

2.1.2 In Saskatoon acute care sites, support staff for Smudging Ceremonies may be contacted through the Spiritual and Cultural Care Department, First Nations and Métis Health or paged through switchboard from 8:00 to 16:00 on weekdays.

2.1.3 In other SHR facilities/affiliate homes, patients, clients and residents are responsible for securing their own cultural support.

2.2 Smudging in a Designated Area

2.2.1 Nurse-in-charge/clinical coordinator assesses the patient/resident's condition/situation:

- Determine whether patient/resident can/cannot be transported to designated area;
- This will be determined based on consultation with the family and clinical judgment.
- If the patient/resident cannot be moved to the designated area, see procedure 3.3.

2.2.2 Determine if patient/resident has their own cultural support or if they are asking SHR to assist with finding cultural support.

2.2.2.1 If the patient/resident has their own cultural support, direct the individuals to designated space.

- 2.2.2.2 If cultural support is requested, contact Spiritual and Cultural Care; if after hours see 3.4 below (urban only).
- 2.2.2.3 Patients/residents in other SHR facilities/affiliate homes will be responsible for securing their own cultural support.
- 2.2.3 If required at the site, advise Facilities Management/Maintenance staff, that a Smudging Ceremony will be taking place.
 - 2.2.3.1 This is determined in consultation with the Site Leader and Facilities Management/Maintenance Staff, as required.
 - 2.2.3.2 In order to facilitate Smudging requests, precautions must be taken to maintain fire safety and eliminate the potential for false alarms. If any portion of a fire protection system (fire alarm, detection, or sprinkler system) is temporarily not in operation, the Smudging Ceremony requires a [fire watch](#) (see Facilities Management InfoNet site).
 - 2.2.3.3 Depending on the area, management of the fire protection system is performed at the fire panel, or by capping the detector within the room.
 - 2.2.3.4 Determine a SHR representative responsible for the confirmation and isolation of the fire alarm system. In most facilities this person is maintenance personnel, trained in how to temporarily disconnect and reactivate the smoke detection devices only in the immediate area or room.
 - Contact the local fire department prior to disabling.
 - Assign an SHR person knowledgeable in the fire system to monitor the affected area every 15 minutes.
 - Ensure a method of communication is in place to alert emergency service and occupants of smoke or fire.
 - Ensure fire watch is documented with date and time.
- 2.2.4 Patients/residents will be transported to the designated Smudging area.

2.3 Smudging in a Non-Designated Area (e.g. patient/resident room)

- 2.3.1 When medical reasons, make it not possible for the patient/resident to be transported to the designated Smudging area, it may be possible to conduct a Smudging Ceremony where the patient/resident is located.
- 2.3.2 Consult with the nurse-in-charge/clinical coordinator about the viability of Smudging on the unit/in the resident's room.
- 2.3.3 Nurse-in-charge/clinical coordinator assesses patient/resident condition to determine if Smudging is, or is not medically advisable.
 - 2.3.3.1 This will be determined in consultation with the family and based on clinical judgment.
- 2.3.4 Nurse-in-charge/clinical coordinator contacts Facilities Management/Maintenance staff to discuss fire safety precautions.
 - 2.3.4.1 If any portion of a fire protection system (fire alarm, detection, or sprinkler system) is temporarily not in operation, the Smudging Ceremony requires a [fire watch](#) (see Facilities Management InfoNet site).

- 2.3.4.2 Depending on the area, management of the fire protection system performed at the fire panel, or by capping the detector within the room.
- 2.3.4.3 Determine a SHR representative responsible for the confirmation and isolation of the fire alarm system. In most facilities this person is maintenance personnel, trained in how to temporarily disconnect and reactivate the smoke detection devices only in the immediate area or room.
 - Contact the local fire department prior to disabling.
 - Assign an SHR person knowledgeable in the fire system to monitor the affected area every 15 minutes.
 - Ensure a method of communication is in place to alert emergency service and occupants of smoke or fire.
 - Ensure fire watch is documented with date and time.
- 2.3.5 Nurse-in-charge/clinical coordinator consults and communicates with adjacent patients/residents and staff and advise that a Smudging Ceremony will be taking place.
 - 2.3.5.1 Consideration must be given to other employees and patients/residents who may be allergic to smoke, or who prefer not to be exposed.
 - 2.3.5.2 Where possible, accommodation will be made for patients/residents who want to Smudge. This may include moving one of the patients/residents to another location.
 - 2.3.5.3 Where available, airscrubbers with a charcoal filter can be used for odour reduction or health concerns.
 - 2.3.5.4 Consider opening a window, close the door or isolate area and place a rolled towel or linen at bottom of the door.
 - 2.3.5.5 Place signage outside of patient/resident room to inform that a Smudging Ceremony will be taking place (see Appendix A).
 - 2.3.5.6 In instances when Smudging is not possible, consult with patient/family and other SHR units to determine alternatives. This can be done in consultation with Spiritual and Cultural Care and First Nations and Métis Health.
- 2.3.6 Determine if patient/resident has their own cultural support or if they are asking SHR to assist with finding cultural support.
 - 2.3.6.1 In urban acute areas, after hours, see 2.4 below.
- 2.3.7 Smudging ceremonies are permitted in the morgue. The Morgue Manager or designate is responsible for coordinating and contacts Facilities Management/maintenance staff who will perform the steps outlined in 2.3.4.1 – 2.3.4.3 above .
 - 2.3.7.1 The appropriateness of Smudging in the morgue is determined by existing protocol of the First Nations and Métis Community.

2.4 Evenings and Weekends – Acute Care Urban

- 2.4.1 For cultural support on evenings and weekends contact switchboard.
- 2.4.2 Switchboard contacts the On-Call Chaplain.

- 2.4.3 The On-Call Chaplain inquiries regarding urgency and contacts cultural supports.
 - 2.4.3.1 Non-emergency requests may be deferred to normal business hours.
- 2.4.4 On-Call Chaplain contacts the unit and advises of cultural support available at the time.
 - 2.4.4.1 If cultural support is available, Chaplain contacts the unit and advises regarding resources available at that time to the family.
 - 2.4.4.2 If cultural support is not available, Chaplain advises that supplies are available and the ceremony can be conducted themselves if the family is comfortable conducting their own smudge.
- 2.4.5 Staff support the patient/family (see procedures for designated/non-designated areas above).
- 2.4.6 Patients and/or family members will likely designate an individual to conduct the ceremony.

3. PROCEDURE MANAGEMENT

The management of this procedure including education, monitoring, implementation and amendment is the responsibility of the Director, First Nations and Métis Health Services and Project Lead, Spiritual and Cultural Care.

4. NON-COMPLIANCE/BREACH

Non-compliance with this procedure may result in disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment and/or privileges with SHR.

SMUDGING CEREMONY IN PROCESS

**THIS CEREMONY
IS A HEALING AND CLEANSING CEREMONY
OF
FIRST NATIONS AND METIS COMMUNITIES**

Small amounts of sacred medicines

(including cedar, sage, sweet grass)

will be burned during this ceremony.