



AGENDA ITEM

5.4

CTM BOARD

**SMOKE FREE PREMISES AND VEHICLES (WALES) REGULATIONS, 2020
CWM TAF MORGANNWG HEALTH BOARD POSITION ON ELECTRONIC
NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ENDS OR E-CIGARETTES)**

Date of meeting	27/05/2021
FOI Status	Open/Public
If closed please indicate reason	Not Applicable - Public Report
Prepared by	Helen Walters - Senior Public Health Practitioner
Presented by	Kelechi Nnoaham, Executive Director of Public Health
Approving Executive Sponsor	Executive Director of Public Health
Report purpose	FOR APPROVAL

Engagement (internal/external) undertaken to date (including receipt/consideration at Committee/group)

Committee/Group/Individuals	Date	Outcome
Angela Jones, Deputy Director of Public Health	(23/04/2021)	SUPPORTED
Chris Beadle, Head of Health, Safety and Fire	(26/04/2021)	SUPPORTED
Hannah Miles, Workforce and OD	(26/04/2021)	SUPPORTED
Management Board	19/05/2021	ENDORSED FOR BOARD APPROVAL

ACRONYMS

HMQ	Help Me Quit
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1. SITUATION/BACKGROUND

As part of the Health Board's implementation plans for The Smoke Free Premises and Vehicles (Wales) Regulations which came in to effect on the 1st March 2021, a paper was submitted to Board with the argument to change the Health Boards' position statement from not allowing Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS or e-cigarettes) on hospital grounds to allowing e-cigarettes on hospital grounds. This was due to the increasing evidence that e-cigarettes can be a useful smoking cessation aid, and cause significantly fewer health problems than cigarettes, further detail below.

This change in position statement was agreed by Board on the 24 February 2021 and as such plans to implement this change across the Health Board were subsequently taken forward. The changes to the position on e-cigarettes have not yet been communicated internally or externally.

2. SPECIFIC MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THIS MEETING (ASSESSMENT)

In light of potential operational issues that have emerged during the planning stage of implementing this change with stakeholders including the Head of Health, Safety and Fire, Workforce and Organisational Development, Facilities, Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) Smoke Free Policy group with Trade Union representation, the Help Me Quit CTM Service Delivery Manager and in consultation with National Tobacco Leads the Board is now being advised to revert back to the original policy position whereby e-cigarettes are not permitted on hospital grounds. The reasons for this request are detailed below.

3. KEY RISKS/MATTERS FOR ESCALATION TO BOARD/COMMITTEE

Arguments for excluding the use of e-cigarettes in the CTM Smoke Free Policy

All other Health Boards in Wales have maintained their position on excluding the use of e-cigarettes as part of their smoke free policies along with all schools in the CTM area. Further arguments are detailed below:



Potential issues:

Health and Safety risk	There is a fire risk from charging e-cigarette devices.
Risk of COVID transmission	A study from Public Health Wales, which looks at the evidence from mass testing in Merthyr Tydfil and the Cynon Valley, suggests that smoking or vaping appears to have a small but significant effect on transmission.
Risk to children and young people	Schools are excluding the use of e-cigarettes in their smoke free policies not wanting to potentially increase vaping among young people. Note to consider here that children/young people are present at hospitals also.
Enforcement	It may be difficult to determine if the smoke is from a cigarette or an e-cigarette in order to issue a fine in line with the legislation
Operational	<p>As the policy would need to ban the charging of e-cigarettes, due to fire risk, staff and inpatients would not be able to charge devices for use. This avoids the potential for conflict in in use and charging as both would be banned.</p> <p>The proposal at the moment is that e-cigarettes should be used during unpaid breaks, managed in the same way smoking off site is. However, this is potentially another example of having a policy allowing use as a cessation aid but practically limiting how devices are used on the ground.</p> <p>TU consensus is that if staff should go off site to smoke they should go off site to vape.</p> <p>Current policy states no one is allowed to smoke in uniform. Allowing the use of e-cigarettes presents the difficult position of whether or not staff are allowed to vape in uniform.</p>
Communication	Including tobacco and e-cigarettes in the approach would present a clearer and consistent message to staff and the public.
Support to quit	Help Me Quit services support smokers who want to quit and are not currently set up to support people who want to quit vaping

Public Health viewpoint from Deputy Director of Public Health (DDPH)

The updated position is supported in large due to the potential fire risk to the organisation from the potential to charge devices, to there being other methods of Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) available for those wanting to make a quit attempt and also the agreement that there should not be a discord between the approach taken at schools and at hospital grounds.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Quality/Safety/Patient Experience implications	Yes (Please see detail below)
	Potential fire risk from charging e-cigarette devices.
Related Health and Care standard(s)	Staying Healthy
	If more than one Healthcare Standard applies please list below: Safe Care Staff and Resources
Equality impact assessment completed	Yes
	Draft EIA has been completed and will be updated as the policy is developed and implemented
Legal implications / impact	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
Resource (Capital/Revenue £/Workforce) implications / Impact	There is no direct impact on resources as a result of the activity outlined in this report.
Link to Main Strategic Objective	To protect and improve population health



Link to Main WBFG Act Objective	Work with communities to prevent ill-health, protect good health and promote better health and well-being
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5. RECOMMENDATION

The recommendation for the Board is to **APPROVE** the position to exclude the use of ENDS on CTM premises.