



**OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE
SERVICES BULLETIN**

ISSUE DATE:

November 29, 2023

EFFECTIVE DATE:

November 29, 2023

NUMBER:

OMHSAS-23-06

SUBJECT:

Rescission of Bulletin issued for Patient Smoking

BY:

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Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services**

SCOPE:

State Mental Health Facilities

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to rescind bulletin SMH-93-02, "Patient Smoking", issued to guide state mental health facilities concerning the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations' (JCAHO) standards for patients smoking in an accredited facility.

DISCUSSION:

The Department of Human Services (Department) published the bulletin on patient smoking on June 15, 1993, to clarify smoke-free living areas, ventilated and furnished designated smoking areas that were conveniently located for patients in each state mental health facility.

The Department now requires all state hospitals to be smoke-free facilities, which was announced during the Department's press release on December 11, 2018. The facilities offer smoking cessation programs and support as needed, including nicotine patches, gum, or other replacement items permissible for both patients (if approved/supported by the treatment team, primarily for new admissions) and staff.

OBSOLETE:

The Department is rescinding bulletin SMH-93-02, Patient Smoking.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Bureau of Policy, Planning and Program Development, P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105. Email: RA-PWOMHSASBULLETINS@pa.gov.