

December 6, 2005

NEWS RELEASE - WE ARE SMOKE FREE

“Joint Township District Memorial Hospital, St. Marys has become a tobacco free facility and campus,” announced Kevin Harlan, President and CEO. “Effective January 1, 2006, all hospital facilities and property including the Celina Medical Center and Wapakoneta Family Health Center will be smoke free. We are very proud to be tobacco free and the region’s leader in adopting this policy.”

Why has Joint Township Hospital become a tobacco free facility and campus? As a regional healthcare provider, Joint Township Hospital has a responsibility to take action, to be the leader in helping people take control of their health. “We are here not only to provide comfort and care when individuals become sick or injured, but a key component of our mission is to promote health and wellness”, says Mr. Harlan. “By becoming a tobacco free campus, we will be a leader in our community in providing a healthy environment to all employees, visitors and patients.”

Tobacco Facts

- ✓ Tobacco use, smoking specifically, contributes to the leading causes of death.
- ✓ Patients who smoke regularly before surgery have twice the risk of wound infection.

- ✓ Smoking retards wound healing.
- ✓ A smoker's broken bones take nearly twice as long to heal as a non-smoker's.
- ✓ The smell of tobacco is a trigger for people who are trying to quit or who recently quit.
- ✓ Smoking can lead to cancers of the oral cavity, pharynx, larynx, esophagus, lungs and bladder.
- ✓ In 2003 there were estimated to be 171,900 new cases of lung cancer, and approximately 157,200 people died from lung cancer.
- ✓ Smoking causes coronary heart disease.
- ✓ Secondhand smoke contains a mixture of more than 4000 chemicals and more than 50 of them are known carcinogens.

“Education will be a key component of our tobacco free campus policy,” says Harlan.

“Our intent is to inservice, educate and heal through smoking cessation resources that will assist patients, their families and our employees. It will be a part of Joint Township Hospital's overall wellness program”.

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Employees and the public can contact the Community Outreach program at Joint Township Hospital (419-394-3335) for information on smoking cessation classes and other resources to aide those intending to quit smoking.

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