

Charging Personal Devices

Bill Connolly
National Fire Safety Advisor

EFA 2014

1

Estates and Facilities Alert

Action

Ref: EFA/2014/002

Issued: 16 JUNE 2014



Device

E-cigarettes, batteries and chargers

Includes reusable and disposable electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), cigars, pipes and similar battery powered tobacco replacement products which use a heating element (atomiser) to produce a vapour which resembles smoke.

Problem

Potential fire or explosion during:

- recharging the battery
- use in an oxygen rich environment

Disposable e-cigarettes are not affected by the charging problem.

Action

- All staff should be made aware of the fire hazard associated with the use and recharging of e-cigarettes.
- E-cigarette batteries should not be recharged in premises or vehicles.
- E-cigarettes should not be used in an oxygen rich environment
- Safety advice should be given to patients receiving therapies at home (see Annexe)

Reports



Public Health
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

E-cigarettes: an evidence update

A report commissioned by Public Health
England

2

Electronic Cigarettes



Nearly 3m people in the UK use electronic cigarettes. This briefing updates [POSTnote 455](#). It summarises the latest data on scale of use, safety and quality of e-cigarettes, and their value as a stop-smoking tool. It also explores the implications of the new EU Tobacco Products Directive and regulatory approaches in the UK.

Overview

- Nearly 3m people in the UK use e-cigarettes. The market is growing rapidly.
- The e-cigarette market has been led by small companies, but all the major tobacco companies have products.
- A growing body of evidence shows that e-cigarettes are much less harmful than tobacco.
- There is evidence showing that e-cigarettes can help smokers quit tobacco.
- Current evidence suggests that e-cigarettes do not encourage tobacco smoking among non-smokers or children.
- Most e-cigarettes are regulated as tobacco-related products, via new EU legislation. There are a wide range of potential impacts of the EU Directive, which are uncertain.
- Producers must license e-cigarettes as medicines if they make health claims, such as effectiveness as a stop-smoking tool.



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Guidance note

E-cigarette use in smokefree NHS settings

The NFCC is committed to making people safer using the skills, knowledge and experience of the Fire & Rescue Service (FRS), along with quality partnership working. This guidance builds on the NFCC Smoking, Vaping & Tobacco Position Statement and partnership work between the NFCC and Public Health England (PHE). The Position Statement can be found at: [‘Smoking, Vaping and Tobacco Position Statement’](#) (January 2018).

Background

The [NHS has made a commitment](#) for all mental health inpatient services sites to be smokefree by 2017/18, expanding to all acute trusts in 2018/19 and all NHS estates becoming smokefree by 2019/20, this is also supported in the Government’s [Tobacco Control Plan for England](#) 2017. This is because smoking is still the biggest cause of preventable premature death, a high proportion of people in the healthcare system smoke and the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recommends that [tobacco dependence is treated routinely](#) as part of clinical care.

NHS Trusts are developing smokefree policies to give comprehensive support for people who want to [quit](#) or [temporarily abstain](#) from smoking while in NHS settings. [NICE guidance](#) emphasises the importance of having a full range of treatment options available for smokers, who may need to try different methods of managing their tobacco dependence. These options include, Nicotine Replacement Therapy, Bupropion and Varenicline. The [Care Quality Commission](#) and [Public Health England](#) have also encouraged trusts to make e-cigarettes an option in inpatient facilities. Health partners believe that the range of options available is likely to play a significant role in the success of a smokefree policy.

EFA 2018

Estates and Facilities Alert

Reference: EFA/2018/007 Issued: 05 December 2018 Review Date: 06 December 2021

Fire risk from personal rechargeable electronic devices



Summary

Personal rechargeable electronic devices present a fire risk during use and when being charged

This alert supersedes and replaces EFA/2014/002 E-cigarettes, batteries and chargers.

Action

- Review guidance provided in appendix and update fire policies, risk assessments procedures and training programmes as required to reflect new guidance
- Indicate that all staff, patients, visitors etc. must be made aware of the risks. e.g. for staff this could be safety briefing or e-learning, for patients and visitors, this could be posters/signs near accessible socket outlets.

Action by

- Chief Executives
- Directors of Human Resources
- Directors of Estates and Facilities
- Directors of Nursing
- Medical Directors
- Risk Managers
- Health & Safety Managers
- Fire Safety Officers

Any Questions?

Bill Connolly
0141 282 2226
wconnolly1@nhs.net