

To Our Patients:

Beginning January 1, 2010 all hospitals in northern Nevada will adopt a smoke- and tobacco-free policy. This policy means that patients, visitors, employees and physicians are prohibited from using tobacco products anywhere inside or outside local hospitals and their related facilities.

Northern Nevada Medical Center, Renown Health and Saint Mary's Regional Medical Center have joined more than 1,700 healthcare organizations across the nation that have become completely smoke- and tobacco-free. This policy is being endorsed by numerous health advocacy groups, including the Washoe County District Health Department and the local chapters of the American Lung Association and American Heart Association. It is intended to help all healthcare facilities maintain the healthiest possible environment for patients, employees and visitors.

Upon your admission to any hospital in northern Nevada, please notify the admissions staff if you use tobacco. This information will be forwarded to clinicians who can help you quit, provide tobacco-abatement products, or discuss alternative resources for you.

Thank you for your cooperation with our area hospitals and for helping maintain a healthier environment for everyone.

If you choose to quit or cut back on smoke-and tobacco use, I am always happy to talk with you about your options. You may also consider calling one of the local hospital smoking cessation programs, where trained coaches can help you through the quitting process. The Renown Health and Wellness Quit Tobacco Program can be reached at 775-982-5073 and Saint Mary's Breathe Easy Program can be reached at 775-770-6210.

Sincerely,