

# NEWS Release



For immediate release  
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## **Yale-New Haven Hospital to become tobacco-free, inside and out on January 1**

**NEW HAVEN, CT, December 29, 2008** - Beginning January 1, 2009, Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) will join thousands of hospitals and medical centers across the country in becoming tobacco-free for all patients, employees and visitors, both inside and outside the hospital. The new policy expands the existing hospital ban on all tobacco products inside the hospital's facilities to the outside areas and walkways that are part of the YNHH campus.

"We are committed to creating the healthiest possible environment for everyone who comes here," said Kevin Myatt, YNHH's senior vice president of human resources. "Smoking is the leading cause of preventable disease and death in this country, and as a leading healthcare institution, we believe this is the right thing to do."

YNHH became tobacco-free in interior spaces in 1984. This new policy includes the use of all tobacco products and applies to all property owned or maintained by YNHH.

Resources to help employees and patients stop smoking include the sale of nicotine replacement products at discounted costs in the hospital's Medical Center Pharmacy, online resources and a 24/7 quit hotline.

"A tobacco-free policy reinforces YNHH's mission and commitment to health," said Myatt. "It also maintains the high standard of service we give the community by providing quality health care in a tobacco-free environment."

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*Yale-New Haven Hospital is a 944-bed, not-for-profit hospital serving as the primary teaching hospital for the Yale School of Medicine. Yale-New Haven was founded as the fourth voluntary hospital in the U.S. in 1826 and today, the hospital complex includes Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and Yale-New Haven Psychiatric Hospital, with a combined medical staff of about 3,400 university and community physicians practicing in more than 100 specialties. Visit [www.ynhh.org](http://www.ynhh.org) for additional information.*