

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



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## STATE OF MONTANA

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### QUALITY ASSURANCE DIVISION CERTIFICATION AND LICENSING BUREAUS PROVIDER INFORMATION NOTICE - #041210

#### ELECTRONIC OR SMOKELESS CIGARETTES

**POLICY:** It is the policy of the Quality Assurance Division (QAD) that healthcare facilities may allow residents or patients to use electronic or smokeless cigarettes inside the facility. The policy has been developed to provide guidance on selection of acceptable electronic or smokeless cigarettes to be used inside of facilities.

**BACKGROUND:** The United States Food and Drug Administration are currently evaluating the new “electronic or e-cigarettes” that are being sold. These e-cigarettes do not involve the combustion of materials similar to traditional cigarettes. While the FDA has not made a definitive decision on their approval of such devices, an FDA News Release dated July 22, 2009, warned the public that early indications show that these devices contain “carcinogens and toxic chemicals.”

**GUIDANCE:** A facility may use the following as guidance in developing its own policy regarding electronic or smokeless cigarettes.

- Approval of electronic or smokeless cigarettes by the DPHHS QAD is based strictly on the inability of the devices to be a source of ignition for fires in health care facilities.
- This policy is based on e-cigarettes consisting of a mouthpiece, atomizer/nebulizer, and a source of power that is battery operated or USB compatible. If a facility has a specific question on a device, the facility may provide a technical data sheet to the QAD for evaluation.
- This notice does not endorse the use of such devices.

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