



An Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH) Publication Serving the Mississippi Healthcare Community

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### Useful Tools

#### **New Care Transition Intervention Models**

#### **Core Measures Booklet**

#### **Reducing Adverse Drug Effects Tool - The ADE Pocket Guide**

### Upcoming Events

Feb. 9  
Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Cardiology's Preventive Health Symposium, Hilton Jackson  
[jwhite@MSMAonline.com](mailto:jwhite@MSMAonline.com)

March 27  
Mississippi Hospital Association hosts the MHA Patient Safety and Quality Summit from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the MHA Conference Center in Madison. More information: Judith Forshee, 800-289-8884, 601-368-3216 or [jforshee@mhanet.org](mailto:jforshee@mhanet.org)

## Mississippi Smokefree Air Act of 2013 Introduced in MS Senate; Data Showing "Good for Businesses"

A bill prohibiting smoking in all indoor public places and places of employment has been introduced in the Mississippi Senate. Sen. Willie Simmons of Bolivar County introduced Senate Bill 2078 which establishes the "Mississippi Smokefree Air Act of 2013." A fact sheet entitled "A Smokefree Mississippi Is Good for Business" highlights statistics on public support, healthcare cost savings and the public health impact of a statewide comprehensive smokefree workplace law. Objective data from numerous studies support the fact that the policies save businesses money. Analysis of hospitality tax revenue in the state is included in the data that show that bars and restaurants in smokefree cities are not adversely impacted.

This information has been shared by the Smokefree Mississippi Coalition to both municipal and state level policy. The 24-section Act can be accessed at: <http://billstatus.ls.state.ms.us/documents/2013/pdf/SB/2001-2099/SB2078IN.pdf>

Bills introduced earlier with smokefree language have not been comprehensive and allow for such exemptions as casinos and cigar bars. Another comprehensive bill is to be introduced in the House of Representatives. The deadline for committee voting on bills is Feb. 5.

An Environmental Protection Agency report maintains that smokefree businesses ultimately save money on healthcare costs, insurance, maintenance and other direct or indirect costs of secondhand smoke. Cigarette smoking and secondhand smoke cost \$92 billion in productivity losses each year, according to the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

Tico Hoffman, of Jackson's Tico's Steakhouse and a member of Restaurant Owners for Smokefree Air, Smokefree Air Mississippi, admits to first being "... a little worried about the business decreasing, but in reality my business really increased since we've been non-smoking."

Smokefree Mississippi has over 100 organizations supporting the advocacy efforts. Information & Quality Healthcare (IQH) operates the Mississippi Tobacco Quitline with counselors available to help persons stop the use of



tobacco (1-800-QUITNOW or 1-800-784-8669).

Members of the Mississippi Senate and the House of Representatives can be contacted during the legislative session at 601-359-3770.

### Observances

Special healthcare observances for upcoming months include:

- February: American Heart Month
- Feb. 10-16: National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week
- March: National Colorectal Awareness Month
- March 3-6: Patient Safety Awareness Week
- March 26: American Diabetes Association Alert Day

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