

## SAFETY TALK



### CREATING A HEALTHIER, SCENT-REDUCED WORKPLACE

Health PEI recognizes that scented products can affect some healthcare workers, patients, residents, and visitors—especially those with sensitivities, allergies, or related medical conditions. To help create a healthier and more comfortable environment for everyone, we are committed to reducing exposure to scented products in the workplace.

#### How can we support a scent-reduced workplace?

- Post approved scent-reduction signage at entrances and in common areas.
- Choose scent-reduced products whenever possible (e.g., cleaners, soaps). If scented products must be used, please plan ahead and provide notice at times that help minimize impact on others.
- Ask managers to review the scent-reduction policy with all new staff during onboarding.
- Encourage healthcare workers to avoid wearing scented products at work.
- Kindly remind patients and visitors to avoid wearing or bringing scented products into the work place.
- In Long-Term Care (LTC), residents who choose to use scented products are encouraged to do so in moderation and select mild or minimally scented options. If concerns arise, they may be asked to limit or avoid use to support the comfort of others.

Environmental sensitivities (ES) are chronic conditions where individuals experience symptoms after exposure to low levels of certain chemicals or environmental agents—levels that most people can tolerate. Symptoms can range from mild to severe.

Also known as multiple chemical sensitivity or environmental intolerance, ES means that even small amounts of scented products can trigger reactions. These exposures may also worsen symptoms for individuals with allergies, asthma, or other conditions, sometimes leading to serious health effects.

**Workers or patients with sensitivities** should report concerns to their manager or healthcare team. Further steps will be explored to reduce exposure.

#### WHY DOES THIS MATTER?



*Safety is everyone's responsibility!*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
FACILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

SAFETY TALK LEAD BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DEPARTMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who does the scent reduction policy apply to within the healthcare workplace?
2. If a scented product must be used, what steps should healthcare workers take?
3. How does a scent-reduction policy help promote a safer environment for everyone?

EMPLOYEE CONCERNS & IDEAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:

EMPLOYEES PRESENT:

FOLLOW UP ON CONCERNS:

If you have any feedback on the Safety Talks program or a suggestion for a Safety Talk, please contact a member of the Wellness & Safety Team or email [healthpeihr@ihis.org](mailto:healthpeihr@ihis.org).

Safety Talks can be found on the Staff Resource Centre at: <https://src.healthpei.ca/safety-talks>