

Tobacco sales banned at V.A. hospitals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Veterans Affairs said yesterday it has ordered all VA hospitals to stop selling tobacco products as of Oct. 1.

Secretary Edward J. Derwinski said the ban on tobacco sales in the VA's 172 medical facilities reflected a commitment to smoke-free hospital environments. The VA already has restricted smoking throughout its hospitals and clinics.

"We cannot on the one hand prohibit smoking and on the other sell cigarettes. With the demonstrated harmful effects of smoking well established, VA must take all possible steps to discourage tobacco use," Derwinski said.

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