

“The present hospital policy on smoking (updated September 14, 1977) is worthless. It essentially permits smoking except where there is oxygen, and it is simply not being enforced. Would that certain hospital personnel were as diligent in enforcing rules which uphold fire regulations and encourage good health practices as they are about chastising a group of physicians who undertake to document violations of hospital policy. Please see the enclosed photographs, all of which were unposed. Enclosed, too, is a transcript of a statement by one of Dr. Tate's patients, a woman who has had to be hospitalized on several occasions because of the overwhelming amount of cigarette smoke in the outpatient clinic...

“...if the 320,000 premature deaths attributable to cigarette smoking every year seems like a hopeless situation, then perhaps the billions of dollars spent caring for these individuals will give the JMH administration pause.

“Just as we physicians make recommendations for our patients on the basis of what we know to be beneficial (and not on the basis of our personal lifestyles), so we expect an administration that has raised the issue of patient care and cost containment to follow through on a strong program to limit cigarette smoking at JMH.

“We urge you to read the enclosed HRS memorandum on smoking, as well as the articles and editorial in *Dimensions in Health Service*. In the latter editorial, Dr. Brosseau writes, "Health protection must have priority over the selfish desire of an individual to indulge in a harmful practice exposing others to a source of unwanted, unpleasant and dangerous pollution."

“Finally, we ask that you thoroughly review the *Hospital Administration Currents* issue entitled, Hospitals Must Join No-Smoking Campaign," which states

‘Hospitals not only have the responsibility to provide medical and surgical care for the sick; they also should help keep people healthy. It is paradoxical, then, that although the warning flag about cigarette smoking has been up since the Surgeon General's report in 1964, many hospitals still have not moved decisively against smoking.’

“We look forward to being among the very first house staff groups in the country to commit ourselves to a program of better patient and employee education. We hope the administration will devote substantial time, talent, and financial resources to this effort.”