

**Policy: Surgical Smoke**

**Date: February 26, 2014**

**Department: Surgical and Related Services**

**Purpose:**

To provide guidance to surgical personnel for creating an environment that reduces the exposure of patients and staff to surgical smoke.

**Policy:**

If surgical smoke is generated during operative or other invasive procedures by heat-producing instruments (electrosurgical units), the smoke will be captured and filtered through the use of smoke evacuators.

**Procedure:**

Surgical smoke will be removed using a smoke evacuation system (Bovie Smoke Shark).

- Each system contains a High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) Bovie SF18 Filter.
- The suction wand will be kept as close as possible but no greater than 2 inches from the source of smoke.
- The evacuation system notifies personnel when the filter needs to be changed. The machine displays the percentage of filter life left in the system. Systems should be changed if the tubing is visibly contaminated or used to suction liquid.
- After a new filter is installed, personnel will document the date, time, and their initials on the side of the filter.
- Standard precautions will be used when disposing of used smoke evacuator filters, tubing, and wands.
- All smoke evacuation systems will be inspected annually by a certified biomedical engineer.

Reference: <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/hazardcontrol/hc11.html>

Action Taken	Date	Next Action Date	Initials
Implemented	2/17/17	2/17/18	EOB
	2/14/18	2/14/19	EOB