



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES
Aging and Long-Term Support Administration
PO Box 45600, Olympia, WA 98504-5600

August 31, 2015

ALTSA: ALF #2015-018
USE OF ELECTRONIC-CIGARETTES IN LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

Dear Assisted Living Facility Administrator:

Recently questions have been posed regarding the use of electronic-cigarettes (“e-cigs”) in long term care settings. It is recommended facilities keep the following in mind when allowing residents to use e-cigarettes:

- Users should always follow manufacturer recommendations when charging and using the device. A small number of incidents have occurred over the past few years when improper charging devices and/or improper batteries were used.
- The solution within the cartridge can be toxic and should be stored in a safe place away from those who could potentially drink the liquid.
- Facilities should develop policies around the use of e-cigarettes and they should address the safe use and storage of e-cigarettes.
- Providers are responsible to know if their local jurisdiction has additional ordinances or restrictions that apply to the use of e-cigarettes.

The following websites contain further information, education, and things to consider regarding the use of e-cigarettes:

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Tobacco/OtherTobaccoProducts/ECigarettes>
https://www.usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/electronic_cigarettes.pdf

Thank you for your continued commitment to assisted living facility residents. If you have any questions, please contact your RCS Field Manager.

Sincerely,

Kathy Morgan, Interim Director
Residential Care Services

“Transforming Lives”