**POLICY**

Accommodation and facilitation for Indigenous Spiritualty and Ceremonies reflect the Health Centre’s Mission and Values to deliver “Exceptional and compassionate care for all” by providing Indigenous ways of healing alongside the care being received at TGHC.

The purpose of this policy is to:

* Provide culturally and spiritually appropriate care to patients and their families that request Indigenous ceremonies in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.
* Facilitate the process for ceremonies for patients and staff

This policy sets out guidelines to assist staff in responding to requests for Indigenous Ceremonies taking into consideration the well-being of all patients, families, and staff within the Health Care environment.

Although various ceremonies may be utilized, the most common request may be for a Smudging Ceremony.

**PROCEDURE**

**1**. Staff receiving a request will contact the SRC Department (416-925-2251 ext. 294/252) to

 coordinate Indigenous ceremonies.

**2**. The chaplain will meet with the patient to confirm their request for Indigenous Ceremony and gather

 pertinent information.

**3.** The chaplain will consult with the patient’s medical team to identify any medical precautions

 necessary.

**4.** To respect the protocols prior to any Indigenous Ceremonies, the chaplain will speak with an Elder

 or the patient/family member of the protocols they follow.

**5.** It is preferred that the patient/family/Elder perform the Ceremony but if they are unavailable and/or

 unable to do this, the chaplain may assist upon request.

**6.** If an individual or family member does not have a personal Medicine Bundle, the chaplain will be

 responsible to bring the Health Center Medicine Bundle.

 A Medicine Bundle is a collection of sacred items used for traditional Indigenous ceremonies

which may include such items as: Sacred medicines (tobacco sage, sweet grass, cedar) shell, feather, cloth, matches).

**7.** Designated spaces open for Ceremonies include the 6th floor lounge and the Irwin Roof Garden

 during summer months.

 Ceremonies involving smoke/flame may be accommodated in the Chapel/patient’s room in

 consultation with the Plant & Environmental Services staff (ext. 216/213) to ensure the fire system

 and ventilation system are managed accordingly.

 Consideration for flammable products (oxygen/hand sanitizer) should be in consultation with the

 Elder and whether alternate methods may be utilized.