



CHAPTER 131E
ARTICLE 5 - HOSPITAL LICENSURE ACT

N.C.G.S. § 131E-78.4.

Hospital standards for surgical smoke evacuation.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	No amendment history on record	21 September 2026, 03:08 UTC	af3065ee3bc04710e26937bb - 57a8d8c8a9b1e53762e3a298 - a830d124c0219796

- § 131E-78.4(a)

Definitions. - The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Smoke evacuation/filtering system. - Stand-alone, portable equipment that effectively captures, filters, and eliminates surgical smoke at the site of origin before the smoke makes contact with the eyes or respiratory tracts of occupants in the room. This equipment is not required to be interconnected to the hospital surgical ventilation or medical gas system.

(2) Surgical smoke. - The gaseous by-product produced by energy-generating devices, including surgical plume, smoke plume, bio-aerosols, laser-generated airborne contaminants, or lung-damaging dust.
- § 131E-78.4(b)

[Requirement. -] Each hospital licensed under this Part shall adopt and implement policies that require the use of a smoke evacuation/filtering system during any surgical procedure that is likely to generate surgical smoke.
- § 131E-78.4(c)

Adverse Action. - The Department of Health and Human Services may take adverse action against a hospital under G.S. 131E-78 for a violation of this section. (2025-37, s. 8(a).)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
1 AUTHORITY

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 131E-78	(c)	"adverse action against a hospital under"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 131E-78.4 (2026).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 131E-78.4(a) (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers; subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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