

Varenicline Client Assessment

Client Name:	Date:
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Absolute contraindications:

(If 'YES' to 1. or 2. then Varenicline cannot be considered)

1. Under 18yrs of age? **No**

2. Pregnant, breast-feeding or trying to get pregnant? **No**

Necessary:

3. A regular smoker? Yes

4. Strongly motivated to quit? Yes

For consideration by the prescriber:

5. Chronic kidney disease (or over 70yrs age)?
(May require dose adjustment in CKD3b or CKD4)

6. History of severe depression or severe psychiatric illness?
(e.g. Sectioned, admitted, thoughts of – or attempted – self harm)

7. Heart disease or stroke?
(Patient should notify any new or worsening symptoms)

8. Epilepsy? (Varenicline has not been tested in patients with epilepsy)

9. Injecting insulin? (increased risk of hypoglycaemia, low blood glucose)

10. Does the patient drive for a living?(varenicline may have a mild affect on ability to drive or operate machinery)

Is the client being prescribed any of the following?

Theophylline **Warfarin** **Cimetidine** **Insulin**

Varenicline has no drug interactions, but stopping smoking may alter metabolism of drugs which may necessitate dosage adjustment.

Depressed mood , rarely including suicidal ideation and suicide attempt, may be a symptom of nicotine withdrawal. In addition, smoking cessation, with or without pharmacotherapy, has been associated with the exacerbation of underlying psychiatric illness (eg. depression).

Patient has been advised to discontinue treatment and seek prompt medical advice if they develop agitation, depressed mood, or suicidal thoughts. Yes

Patient supplied with information leaflet. Yes

- Start taking varenicline 1-2 weeks before agreed quit date
- Dose: 0.5mg od for 3 days, then 0.5mg bd, for 4 days, then 1mg bd
- If patient cannot tolerate side effects dose may be reduced to 0.5mg bd for duration of course. CKD3 with side effects continue at 1mg od
- CKD4 – dose 0.5mg od 3 days then 1mg od.