

Briefing for pharmacy teams – the Smoking Cessation Service (SCS)

This PSNC Briefing provides information for pharmacy teams on the new Smoking Cessation Service (SCS), which can start to be provided from 10th March 2022.

Background

In January 2019, the NHS Long Term Plan (LTP) was published which said that the NHS would make a significant new contribution to making England a smoke-free society, by supporting people in contact with NHS services to quit based on a proven model, the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation (OMSC). The NHS LTP also said that all people admitted to hospital who smoke would be offered NHS-funded tobacco treatment services by 2023/24.



In July 2019, PSNC, NHS England and NHS Improvement and the Department of Health and Social Care agreed a five-year deal for community pharmacies, which included piloting a stop smoking referrals from secondary care service; if the pilot was successful, in Year 3 (2021/22) of the deal, such a service would be commissioned nationally.



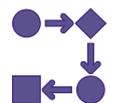
The early findings from the pilot indicated that a consistent, national offer could be achieved through community pharmacy, and that it could create the capacity needed to enable NHS trusts to transfer patients for smoking cessation support in the community. The SCS was therefore added to the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework (CPCF) as part of Year 3 of the five-year CPCF deal.

Aim and objective of the service

The aim of the SCS is to reduce morbidity and mortality from smoking, and to reduce health inequalities associated with higher rates of smoking with the objective of the service being to ensure that any patients referred by NHS trusts to community pharmacy for the SCS receive a consistent and effective offer, in line with NICE guidelines and the OMSC.

Brief overview of the service

- The service officially starts on 10th March 2022; however, this is an Advanced service and contractors are free to choose if they will provide the service and when they will start providing it.
- This is a free NHS service which will be provided in the consultation room or can be provided remotely if the patient agrees to this.
- This service will be provided by the pharmacist.
- During a consultation, a patient will have their carbon monoxide level measured, will receive behavioural support and will also receive a supply of NRT free-of-charge.
- Patients will have follow-up appointments to monitor progress, provide support and receive additional NRT (patients can only be supplied with two-weeks of NRT at an appointment).
- Contractors must have a standard operating procedure (SOP) in place for this service and all pharmacy staff involved in the provision of the service must be familiar with and adhere to the SOP.
- Not all NHS trusts will start making referrals as soon as the service commences, rollout of the service is expected to be gradual so you may need to re-familiarise yourself with the service, when you start to receive referrals.



What role can I play in the service?

Although a pharmacist must provide the service, there are a number of roles that pharmacy team members can be involved in to support delivery of the service, for example:

- Checking if referrals have been received;
- Contacting patients to arrange a consultation with the pharmacist (diary management); and
- Advising patients about other services that are provided at the pharmacy that they may be eligible to access, for example, the Hypertension case-finding service (if the pharmacy provides this service).

