

Notice from the Executive Officer

Re: Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Program

Effective September 1, 2011, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on the advice from the Ontario Pharmacy Council and in collaboration with the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport is launching a pharmacist-directed smoking cessation program to support Ontario Drug Benefit recipients in their attempts to stop smoking.

For complete program details, standardized forms and frequently asked questions, please refer to the Ministry website: <http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/drugs/smoking/>

Patient Eligibility:

- Ontario Drug Benefit (ODB) recipients

Description:

- The pharmacist has the opportunity to support patients seeking smoking cessation counseling support, to provide quit smoking materials and linkages to other community supports as appropriate.
- Includes a number of counselling sessions between the pharmacist and the patient over a one-year period, including an in-depth initial consultation meeting (after completing a readiness assessment where a patient enrolls in the program).
- Uses the 5A's algorithm (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, Arrange) at all points of contact between the patient and the pharmacist and includes documenting each point of contact using the smoking cessation template forms.
- Requires that pharmacists take a smoking cessation training program.

Process for conducting a smoking cessation program:

- Readiness Assessment: a questionnaire to determine the patient's desire to quit smoking; once completed and the patient agrees to program enrolment including a willingness to set a quit date; the patient signs for both enrolment and consent to share information within the circle of care.
- First consultation meeting: an in-depth consultation between the pharmacist and the patient that takes place in the community pharmacy (approximately 20 minutes). The intent is to discuss the patient's smoking history; his/her tobacco use; medication history; health risks, triggers / strategies; a quit date and pharmacotherapy needs. The meeting will ensure the patient understands the goals and objectives of the program including their responsibilities towards success.
- Follow-up counseling sessions: are to provide ongoing support for the patient by getting an update on their smoking status, addressing any concerns or issues that have arisen and to reinforce smoke-free positive behaviours used by the patient.
 - Primary Follow-up sessions 1 - 3: should take place within 3 weeks of the first consultation, are approximately 10 minutes and may be in-person at the pharmacy or as arranged.
 - Secondary Follow-up sessions 4 - 7: are expected to take place at intervals as agreed by the pharmacist and the patient between one to two months; between three to four months; between six to seven months and between eight to 12 months; sessions are approximately 5 minutes and may be in-person at the pharmacy or as arranged.

Documentation Requirements:

- Each point of contact and/or all meetings/sessions between the pharmacist and the patient must be documented to ensure program continuity and for the purposes of counselling, support, data analysis, evaluation and claims adjudication.
- Standardized template forms are provided by the Ontario Government as minimum mandatory standards of care to assist pharmacists in the documentation at each patient point of contact. While pharmacists may develop their own forms, they must include information as stated on the template to maintain the consistency of program protocol.
- Program withdrawal + Program success: Should the patient decide that he/she needs to withdraw from the program; the pharmacist is required to document program withdrawal and program success including reasons provided using the standardized template.

Record Keeping

- All documentation forms and pharmacy records submitted through the ODB Health Network System PIN mechanism are subject to audit and must be maintained in a readily retrievable format for a minimum of 2 years for the purposes of audit under the ODB program; and for a minimum of 10 years as part of the patient health record.

Pharmacist Educational Requirements:

- The smoking cessation program may be conducted by a licensed Part A registered pharmacist.
- **Pharmacists are required to take a smoking cessation training program to ensure that they have a basic level of training including motivational interviewing strategies, the 5A's algorithm and a familiarity with more involved smoking cessation counselling and quit smoking planning.** (see in-depth program materials for more details)

Payment:

- PIN 93899941 = \$ 40 Readiness Assessment; Signed consent/enrolment; First Consultation Meeting at the pharmacy (first meeting is approximately 15-20 minutes in the pharmacy; once per year)
- PIN 93899942 = \$15 Primary Follow-up Sessions: 3 sessions within the first 3 weeks: (approx.10 minutes; 3 / yr)
- PIN 93899943 = \$10 Secondary Follow-up Session: 4 sessions as defined from day 30 to day 365: (approx 5 min.; 4 / yr)

Program Evaluation:

- PIN 93899944 = Patient succeeded in quitting smoking (may be claimed once per year if applicable)
- PIN 93899945 = Patient did not succeed in quitting smoking (may be claimed once per year if applicable)
- PIN 93899946 = Patient quit smoking status is unknown (may be claimed once per year if applicable)