

Time Sensitive Correspondence

By email to:

Community Pharmacists providing Stop Smoking Service

30th August 2024

Dear Service Provider,

Re: Specialist Stop Smoking Services – Action Required

We are writing to express our sincere thanks for your continued delivery of Stop Smoking Services across Northern Ireland which has, undoubtedly contributed significantly to the reduction of smoking prevalence here, which currently sits at 14%. However, we acknowledge that there continues to be over 300,000 smokers here, and your continued commitment to the delivery of services will hopefully see this reduce further.

In the coming months the PHA will be linking closely with all our stop smoking service providers to ensure that our services continue to be of high quality and are fit for purpose. We look forward to continuing to work with you to identify what works well, and where there may be potential for improvements in the service.

As part of this quality assurance process, the PHA & SPPG will undertake a data review during the week commencing 14th October 2024, for stop smoking services that were delivered during the period **1st April 2023 – 31 March 2024**. This review aims to demonstrate that the work of community pharmacy is accurately reported, and is delivered in line with required best practice guidance i.e. the Quality Standards for Stop Smoking Services in Northern Ireland, and the Regional Pharmacy Specialist Smoking Cessation Guide. Both documents can be found on the following link: [Stop Smoking - Business Services Organisation \(BSO\) Website \(hscni.net\)](https://www.hscni.net/stop-smoking-business-services-organisation)

To this end, it is **essential** that your pharmacy ensures that ALL stop smoking client data has been accurately uploaded onto the electronic monitoring system (www.stopsmokingni.com) before the **deadline of Friday 27th September 2024**. This means ensuring all client forms, and all 4 and 52 week follow up forms have been added to the electronic system. This will ensure the review provides a true reflection of your stop smoking service delivery. Guidance on uploading data is also available via the link above to the BSO website. Any follow ups submitted onto the system, that have not expired, i.e. within 12 months, will be eligible for claiming payment and can be processed in the usual way. The PHA/SPPG may contact you at a later date to discuss your service activity and PV1 activity for this period.

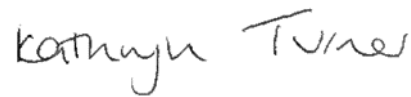
We would also like to take this opportunity to remind service providers that the Quality Standards for Stop Smoking Services in Northern Ireland, require service providers to carry out carbon monoxide (CO) validation for ALL clients at the 4-week follow up stage. Review of data available at present indicates that less than 25% of quit attempts are CO validated at this stage in community pharmacy. This is an area which has been identified as requiring improvement and as such, will be monitored as part of the quality improvement process.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss this letter further, please contact PHATobaccoAdmin@hscni.net

Yours sincerely



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