

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Centre for Public Health Excellence

Review decision

Review of Public Health guidance (PH5) – Workplace interventions to promote smoking cessation

1 Background information

Guidance issue date: 2007

1 year review: 2008

3 year review: 2011

2 Review decision

The guidance should not be updated at this time.

The guidance will be reviewed again in 3 years.

3 Consideration of the evidence and practice

The expert group discussed current and ongoing research of relevance to the current recommendations.

Recommendations 1, 2 and 3

The expert group did not consider that current evidence or practice necessitated an update of Recommendations 1, 2 or 3.

Recommendation 4

This recommendation has been superseded by the guidance on smoking cessation services (PH10) so does not require updating.

Recommendations 5

The expert panel noted that because of proposed changes in the delivery of stop smoking services, it may no longer be longer appropriate to direct recommendations to 'NHS Stop Smoking Services' managers, but that this could be amended once the changes are confirmed. The recommendation did not require updating.

Recommendation 6

The recommendation was made to support the introduction of smoke-free legislation in England in July 2007. It is no longer relevant.

4 Implementation and post publication feedback

Thirty enquiries were received from post-publication feedback, many of which were requests for printed copies or links to related products.

No new evidence was identified through post publication enquiries or implementation feedback that would indicate a need to update the guidance.

5 Stakeholder consultation

Twelve organisations responded, including 3 commercial interests and 4 professional organisations, including the Royal College of Nursing and the Optical Confederation.

The consultation generated several suggestions for changes that could be made to the guidance. For example, one stakeholder reported that offering a weekly workplace clinic for a period of 4-12 weeks provided a better rate of 4 week quits compared to offering an initial consultation with a specialist adviser in the workplace followed by access to community Stop Smoking Clinic. No evidence was provided to support this claim.

Another stakeholder asked that we consider changing the following wording 'an assessment of the patient's commitment to quit' to make it clearer that all smokers should be advised to stop and offered evidence-based support, regardless of whether or not they express a desire to stop. The same stakeholder asked that we update the guidance to consider the evidence for the provision of very brief advice using the 'Ask, Advise, Act' approach for very brief interventions. However this will be considered within a partial update of the guidance on smoking cessation services (PH10).

Several stakeholders commented that the 'who should take action' statement will need to be re-worded to reflect future NHS structures and the changing context for delivery of public health services.

Notwithstanding the suggestions made during the consultation, the majority agreed with the recommendation of the expert panel that the guidance does not require updating at this time.

6 Equality and diversity considerations

There has been no evidence to indicate that the guidance does not comply with anti-discrimination and equalities legislation.

7 Recommendation

The guidance does not require updating at the present time. It should be reviewed again in 3 years.

Tricia Younger, CPHE Associate Director

Mike Kelly, CPHE Director

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