Smoking: reducing and preventing tobacco use

Information for the public
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About this information

NICE quality standards help to improve key areas of health or social care so that people are offered the best services, care and support available.

This information describes what the NICE quality standard for reducing tobacco use (smoking) says.

Reducing tobacco use (smoking)

The quality standard for reducing tobacco use (smoking) is made up of 8 statements, which set out what organisations (such as schools and colleges, local trading standards, employers, 'stop smoking' services, healthcare services) should do to help improve people's health and prevent disease.

1. Children and young people take part in programmes at their school or college that help them to refuse offers of tobacco products by improving their self-esteem, how they cope with stress, and general social and assertive skills.

2. Children and young people attend schools and colleges that do not allow smoking anywhere in the school or the school grounds at any time. The schools and colleges do not have any areas in the grounds set aside for smoking.

3. Children and young people find it hard to buy tobacco products and hard to start or carry on smoking. This means that they are better protected from smoking-related harm.

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4. Employees who smoke can attend 'stop smoking' services during working hours, without losing pay.

5. People who work in healthcare services (including contractors and volunteers) do not smoke during working hours or when they can be recognised as an employee, as set out in their contracts. Patients and visitors of healthcare services are in a setting in which employees (including contractors and volunteers) do not smoke during working hours.

6. People who work in healthcare services (including contractors and volunteers) are not allowed to smoke anywhere in the grounds of their healthcare setting. The setting does not have any areas set aside for smoking. Patients and visitors of healthcare settings are not allowed to smoke anywhere in the grounds of the healthcare setting.

7. People who work in secondary healthcare services (including contractors and volunteers) and patients are helped to stick to the smokefree policy by being able to obtain a range of licensed nicotine-containing products and 'stop smoking' pharmacotherapies on site. Visitors of secondary healthcare services can obtain a range of licensed nicotine-containing products onsite at all times. This helps them follow the smokefree policy within the healthcare grounds.

8. Adults, children and young people come into contact with campaign messages that put them off taking up smoking and encourage them to quit if they already smoke.

NICE also plans to look at illegal tobacco and cigarettes (illicit tobacco) when more information on this becomes available.

More information on reducing tobacco use (smoking)

NICE guidance (advice) on the following topics was used to develop this quality standard:

- Smoking cessation in secondary care: acute, maternity and mental health services
- School-based interventions to prevent smoking
- Preventing the uptake of smoking by children and young people
- Smoking cessation services
- Workplace interventions to promote smoking cessation

Sources of advice and information on reducing tobacco use (smoking)

- QUIT, 020 7553 2100, www.quit.org.uk

You can also go to NHS Choices for more information about health and social care.

NICE is not responsible for the quality or accuracy of any information or advice provided by these organisations.

A number of organisations who share NICE’s commitment to improving quality in this area formally support this quality standard. They may also be able to provide advice and support. For a list of these organisations see the reducing tobacco use (smoking) quality standard overview.


Accreditation