

# Smoking: support and treatment (all patients)

NICE indicator

Published: 1 August 2011

[www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind99](http://www.nice.org.uk/indicators/ind99)

## Indicator

The percentage of patients aged 15 years and over who are recorded as current smokers who have a record of an offer of support and treatment within the preceding 24 months.

## Indicator type

General practice indicator suitable for use in the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

This document does not represent formal NICE guidance. For a full list of NICE indicators, see our [menu of indicators](#).

To find out how to use indicators and how we develop them, see our [NICE indicator process guide](#).

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## Rationale

The most effective method of stopping smoking is by using a combination of behavioural support (one-to-one or group) from a trained stop smoking advisor and one or more of the pharmacotherapies licensed for smoking cessation (including nicotine replacement therapy) or nicotine-containing e-cigarettes. In practice, it is common for pharmacotherapy to be used without support but rare for people to use support without pharmacotherapy. However, the efficacy of behavioural support approximately doubles the continuous abstinence rate, with or without pharmacotherapy treatment.

"Offer of support and treatment" therefore means offering referral or self referral to a local NHS stop smoking adviser (who might be a member of the practice team) plus pharmacotherapy (including nicotine replacement therapy) or nicotine-containing e-cigarettes. Where such support is not acceptable to the patient an alternative form of brief support such as follow up appointments with a GP or Practice Nurse trained in smoking cessation should be offered. Allen Carr's Easyway in-person group seminar is another intervention that is recommended for smoking cessation.

## Source guidance

Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence. NICE guideline NG209 (2021, updated 2025), recommendations 1.11.1, 1.11.2, 1.11.6 and 1.13.1

## Specification

**Numerator:** The number of patients in the denominator who have a record of an offer of support and treatment within the preceding 24 months.

**Denominator:** The number of patients aged 15 years and over who are recorded as current smokers.

**Calculation:** Numerator divided by the denominator, multiplied by 100.

**Exclusions:** None.

**Expected population size:** Quality and Outcomes framework data for 2023 to 2024 (indicator SMOK004) shows that 11.8% of people in England are recorded as current

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smokers: 1,181 patients for an average practice with 10,000 patients. To be suitable for use in QOF, there should be more than 20 patients eligible for inclusion in the denominator, per average practice with 10,000 patients, prior to application of personalised care adjustments.

# Update information

## Minor changes since publication

**March 2025:** We added details of expected population size.

ISBN: 978-1-4731-6058-3