

Cambridgeshire County Council Public Health Pharmacy Contract

Service Specification: Nicotine Replacement Therapy Pharmacy Voucher Scheme 2023-24

For provision of Nicotine Replacement Therapy Voucher Scheme in Pharmacies

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Context Update

The most recent population estimates (2022) show that the population aged 12 and above in Cambridgeshire is 598,953 (87% of the overall Cambridgeshire population)¹. The Indices of Multiple Deprivation (2019) is a combined measure used to assess the deprivation of areas. Compared to England, Cambridgeshire is significantly less deprived. Out of 153 local authorities, Cambridgeshire ranks 129th on the IMD-2019, where 1 indicates worst rank. Though the overall deprivation is low for Cambridgeshire, there are districts that rank higher on the IMD-2019². Deprivation has been linked to poor smoking outcomes.

The most recent data (2021) shows that 11.3% of those aged 18 and above in Cambridgeshire are smokers, which is lower than the prevalence's in East of England (13.2%) and England (12.7%). Within Cambridgeshire, there are large differences in smoking prevalence between its districts with East Cambridgeshire (7%) having the lowest and Fenland (14%) having the highest prevalence³. In 2022, 29.6% of people living in Cambridgeshire and working in a routine and manual occupation (aged 18-64) were current smokers, which was higher than East of England (23.9%) and England (22.5%)⁴.

Smoking in pregnancy has well known detrimental effects for the growth and development of the baby and health of the mother. In 2022/2023, 9.9% (607) of women were smokers at time of delivery in the Cambridgeshire, which is statistically significantly worse than the regional and national level, which are 8.7% and 8.8% respectively⁵.

In 2022/23, the rate of smokers that set a quitting date was 3,380 smokers per 100,000 smokers aged 18 and above in Cambridgeshire, which was lower than the regional rate of 3,592 for East of England, but higher than the national rate of 2,965 for England⁶. For the same year, the rate of smokers that successfully quit at 4 weeks is 937 in Cambridgeshire, which was lower than the regional rate (1,683) and national rate (1,602)⁷. Out of the people that successfully quit smoking at 4 weeks, the rate of smokers where quitting was carbon monoxide (CO) validated was 54 per 100,000 smokers aged 18 and above in Cambridgeshire, lower than East of England (185) and England (234)⁸.

Purpose of Service

To dispense Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) to support a smoking cessation attempt but does not include one-to-one behavioural support which will be provided by an external provider.

Aims

The key aims of the service are:

¹ ONS Mid-Year Population Estimates, England and Wales, June 2022

² National statistics, English indices of deprivation 2019

³ ONS, Annual Population Survey (APS), 2022, Prevalence of current smoking among persons 18 years and over.

⁴ ONS, Annual Population Survey (APS), 2022, Smoking prevalence in adults in routine and manual occupations (18-64) - current smokers.

⁵ NHS Digital, Smoking Status at time of delivery (SATOD), 2023.

⁶ Statistics on NHS Stop Smoking Services in England April 2022 to March 2023.

⁷ NHS Stop Smoking Services, Smokers that have successfully quit at 4 weeks April 22 – March 23.

⁸ NHS SSS, Smokers that have successfully quit at 4 weeks (CO validated), April 22 – March 23.

- To dispense Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) to support a smoking cessation attempt.
- To contribute to local public health and tobacco control strategies, which have a commitment to reduce smoking prevalence by providing support for people to stop via a structured quit attempt.
- To address the health inequalities experienced by those in Cambridgeshire who smoke.

Provider Deliverables

This service specification has the following **key components**:

General Scope

- This service may be offered to a smoker who would like to make a quit attempt using a licensed nicotine containing product (NRT) as part of a standard treatment programme.
- This service may be offered to anyone over the age of 12 years, most NRT products are licensed for 12 year olds plus.
- The contractor is required to dispense NRT upon receipt of a valid NRT Voucher Code. Clients will be receiving behavioural support from an external provider; therefore, the Pharmacy is NOT required to provide additional support. However, the Pharmacy should provide brief advice and instructions on how to use the product effectively.
- Pharmacies will supply NRT on receipt of a voucher code from an authorised individual as directed on PharmOutcomes. Pharmacies will confirm that the NRT has been supplied as directed and will record the dispensed medication via the PharmOutcomes system.
- The Public Health Joint Commissioning Unit (JCU) will generate a quarterly summary report through the Commissioners portal and this will be used to make a payment. No patient identifiable information will be shared with the Commissioner.
- All clients accessing this scheme will be provided with stop smoking advice by the smoking cessation advisor completing the voucher code. Pharmacies will only be required to supply the requested product. Patients should be directed back to their smoking cessation advisor for further stop smoking advice or to obtain another voucher code for NRT.
- The EC Labelling and Leaflet Directive applies to all NRT supplied. The pack should be labelled with the following information:
 - The address of the clinical area where the supply was made
 - 'Keep out of the reach of children'
 - Directions for use
 - The name of the patient
 - Date of supply
- Voucher codes will be valid for two weeks from the date issued. Clients who present an out of date voucher code should be signposted back to their original advisor.

- NRT supplied should be in accordance with the dispensing essential service.
- If the directions are not clear then the smoking cessation advisor should be contacted for clarification.
- If patients are exempt from NHS prescription charges then there is no charge to the client for supply of NRT through this scheme. Clients accessing the service who are not exempt from prescription charges will be required to pay one prescription charge per product for each 2 week cycle of NRT supplied.
- The NHS prescription pre-payment scheme should be promoted to the client.
- The cost of NRT will be reimbursed to the pharmacy minus any prescription charges.
- It is the Pharmacists responsibility for the treatment of the smoker and therefore he/she should only dispense the product suggested on the voucher should they deem it appropriate to do so.

Service Delivery Quality Standards

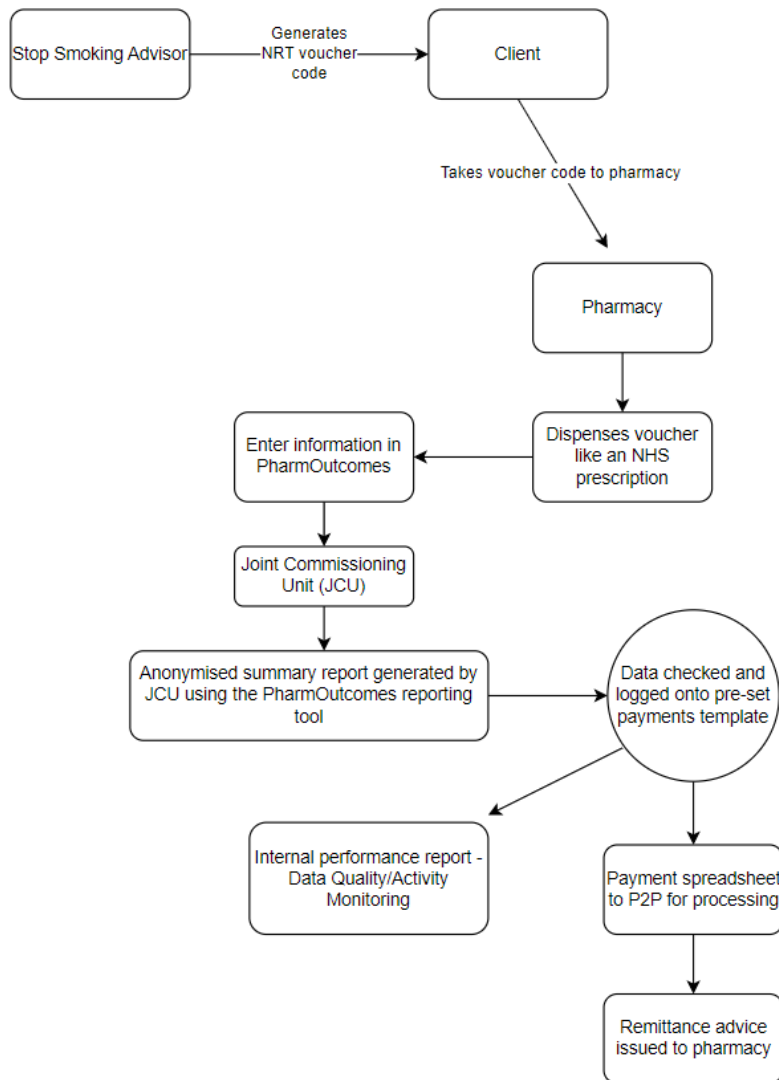
1. Training

- Smoking cessation training is compulsory for every staff member involved in the provision of the voucher scheme and the pharmacy contractor has the responsibility to ensure that all staff including locums involved in providing the service are appropriately trained
- Pharmacists who have previously attended Level 2 training are able to dispense NRT via the voucher scheme
- Pharmacists who have not attended Level 2 training will need to complete the [NCSCT stop smoking medications module](#), and the [NCSCT Very Brief Advice on Smoking module](#) and ensure they have awareness of local stop smoking support pathways.
- Brief intervention training including an overview of local services and NRT products can be provided free of charge.
- The pharmacy contractor has the responsibility to ensure that pharmacists and staff involved in the provision of the service are aware of and act in accordance with the Service Specification, the Joint Commissioning Unit, Cambridgeshire County Council protocols, best practice guidance and NICE guidance.
- All staff are encouraged to access the nationally accredited certification which is available free of charge via the National Centre for Smoking Cessation Training website www.ncsct.co.uk

Performance Monitoring, Data Collection and Submission of Activity

- Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Public Health request that all commissioned Public Health interventions are recorded on the web-based platform PharmOutcomes.
- The pharmacy will enter the voucher code provided into the PharmOutcomes system.
- The pharmacy will check clinical suitability of the recommended product(s) before dispensing the product(s).
- The pharmacies will confirm that NRT has been supplied as directed and will record the dispensed medication on PharmOutcomes.
- All information must be recorded on the PharmOutcomes system as a commissioners report will be generated and used to process contract payments.

Data Flow Chart



Quality Standards for Monitoring

The evidence base and national standards for smoking cessation are set out below.

- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) NG209 Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating dependence
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) TA123 Smoking cessation – Varenicline (2007)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Stop smoking interventions and services NICE guideline [NG92] (March 2018)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Public Health Guidance 10: smoking Cessation Services (February 2008)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Public Health Guidance 26: Smoking: stopping in pregnancy and after childbirth (June 2010)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Public Health Guidance 45: Tobacco: Harm Reduction Approaches to Smoking (June 2013)
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) QS43 Smoking cessation: supporting people to stop smoking (2013)

- National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) Local Stop Smoking Services: Service and Delivery Guidance (2014)
- National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) Electronic Cigarettes: A Briefing for Stop Smoking Services (January 2016)

Payments and Verification

The fee structure for community pharmacy participation in the scheme will be:

- Pharmacies will be paid £2.50 for each NRT product dispensed on receipt of voucher. On dispensing the product the Pharmacy should provide the client with brief advice and instructions on the product use.
- Pharmacies will be reimbursed for NRT supplied based on the latest drug tariffs.
- Summary information about all Vouchers must be recorded on the PharmOutcomes system. A Commissioner's report will be generated and used to process contract payments.

Audit

The pharmacy will be required to participate in any audit required by the Commissioner.

Payment

Payment will be made quarterly, within one calendar month of the Joint Commissioning Unit receiving the data, following the schedule below. Payment will be made directly to account details provided by the practice.

Month Completed	Date data expected to reach JCU team	Expected payment made by
Quarter 1 (April, May, June 2024)	15 th July 2024	15 th August 2024
Quarter 2 (July, Aug, Sept 2024)	15 th October 2024	15 th November 2024
Quarter 3 (Oct, Nov, Dec 2024)	15 th January 2025	15 th February 2025
Quarter 4 (Jan, Feb, March 2025)	15 th April 2025	15 th May 2025

Safeguarding

It is important that pharmacies protect children and adults from avoidable harm (as defined in Safeguarding Children and Adults legislation and guidelines) this may include harm caused within the family but also extra familiar harm such as child exploitation. Should you identify a child is or may be at risk of significant harm you must make a referral to the relevant agency in line with local policies and procedures. These can be accessed via the links below.

It is important that the Pharmacy has an identified safeguarding lead and the staff have received appropriate safeguarding adults and children's training in line with the Intercollegiate Documents (2019/2020). Identified leads should apply professional curiosity and consent where relevant and be aware of local sexual abuse services such as [SARC](#).

Children's Safeguarding Board.

[Professionals – Making a Referral | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

[Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

[Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

[Information for Professionals | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Adults Safeguarding Board:

[Professionals – Making a Referral | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

[Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Adults Policies, Procedures and Practice Guidance | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

[Multi-Agency Safeguarding Training | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Specific for independent contractors such as GP practices / pharmacy

[Safeguarding for GPs and Independent Contractors | Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Safeguarding Partnership Board \(safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingcambspeterborough.org.uk)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Useful Contacts

Public Health service lead
Kerri Marshall
Kerri.Marshall@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Deputy Director of Public Health
Val Thomas
Email: Val.Thomas@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Commissioning and Contracts Support Team - Secure email: cpicb.phjcuadmin@nhs.net