

Pharmacy

National Service Specification for Community Pharmacy Smoking Cessation

Situation	<p>From the 1st of July accredited pharmacists (who have completed a NES training pack and assessment) will be able to make supplies of up to 12 weeks of Varenicline to patients who have been unsuccessful with quit attempts with NRT. As part of the National Service Spec they are required to operate within, they will make contact with the GP for 2 reasons:</p> <p>Letter 1 - Patient meets the PGD criteria - To inform the GP that they are making a supply for 12 weeks. They will include a copy of the completed risk assessment for information.</p> <p>Letter 2 - Where patient hits one or more of the exclusion criteria on the risk assessment, there is a letter asking the GP if they are happy for the patient to be supplied with Varenicline via the PGD.</p>
Background	<p>The PGD lists inclusion and exclusion criteria. As part of the National Smoking Cessation Service a clinical risk assessment is undertaken by the pharmacist prior to supplying Varenicline to identify any exclusion criteria.</p> <p>If a patient answers “yes” to one or more questions in the risk assessment then a standard letter is sent to the clients GP asking the GP to confirm that the pharmacist can go ahead and supply Varenicline. This is against the exclusion criteria in the PGD.</p>
Assessment	<p>The Lead pharmacist, Community Pharmacy Development, has proposed that pharmacists adhere to the exclusion criteria and do not supply to clients where any exclusion criteria apply, contrary to the National specification that says the pharmacist can supply if the GP agrees. Instead the letter to the GP will request the GP to prescribe.</p> <p>The Director of Pharmacy and the Area Pharmaceutical Committee support the proposal not to supply.</p>
Recommendation	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varenicline is not supplied by pharmacists against any exclusion criteria • GPs will be asked to prescribe if appropriate for clients who could safely receive Varenicline despite exclusions. • Further discussion takes place with GPs to agree when it may be safe for pharmacists to supply and the PGD amended accordingly.

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