



Eric J. Holcomb
Governor

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State Health Commissioner

CSO-24-02

Statewide Standing Order (“Standing Order”) for Tobacco Cessation Products

Purpose: To broaden patient access to FDA-approved medications for smoking cessation through pharmacists who are trained to screen, prescribe, and dispense appropriate medication(s) for cessation, and provide evidence-based counseling interventions with referral, as appropriate. This includes cessation of e-cigarettes or other devices used for nicotine inhalation. This standing order is to be used in conjunction with the Protocol for Dispensing Tobacco Cessation Products under Statewide Standing Order (“the Protocol”).

Eligible Providers: Pharmacists properly licensed pursuant to Indiana Code 25-26-13 may operate under this standing order. Licensed pharmacists who meet the qualifications delineated in the Protocol and who provide care to patients but are not in a medication “dispensing” role are included under this standing order as long as they follow the steps outlined in the Protocol and provide a written order to the patient that can then be dispensed by another pharmacist.

Eligible Recipients: Any individual 18 years or older who is:

- Ready to quit based on individual assessment; and
- Not determined to be high-risk after a health screening conducted by the pharmacist.

Eligible products: Eligible products are FDA approved tobacco cessation products which are allowed under the Protocol.

Procedure:

1. **Assessment:** The pharmacist shall assess a patient’s readiness to quit and apply the 5 A’s approach for quitting: Ask, Advise, Assess, Assist, and Arrange, as described in the [Clinical Practice Guideline for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence](#), or a similar strategy based on current evidence.
2. **Health Screening:** The pharmacist shall perform and document a health screening on the patient based on clinical guidelines as outlined in the protocol to identify appropriate candidates for treatment by the pharmacist. The health screenings should be reviewed and revised as necessary to reflect current practice.

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3. **Referral of high-risk patients:** If a patient is determined to be high-risk based on the health screening, the pharmacist shall refer the patient to a primary care provider or to another provider as appropriate.
4. **Dispensing eligible products:** The pharmacists, in consultation with the patient, may select and dispense any eligible products. Combination therapy (e.g. the nicotine patch plus the nicotine gum, lozenge, inhaler, or nasal spray; or bupropion SR plus the nicotine patch) may be used, per the current clinical guideline recommendations, and is appropriate based on patient needs and preferences.
5. **Counseling:**
 - a. The pharmacist shall provide necessary information about the product pursuant to 856 IAC 1-33-2 regarding counseling when dispensing a tobacco cessation product under the standing order.
 - b. The pharmacist shall provide counseling to the patient on the administration, possible side effects, contraindications, and warnings associated with the therapy. The pharmacist shall provide educational material on any therapies dispensed and encourage patients to ask questions.
 - c. The pharmacist shall provide appropriate behavioral counseling and/or refer the patient to other resources for assistance, such as (but not limited to) the Indiana Tobacco Quitline 1-800-QUITNOW.
6. **Follow-up:** Pharmacists are encouraged to follow-up with patients as outlined in the protocol.
7. **Notification:**
 - a. The pharmacist shall inform the patient that the patient must have a follow-up consultation with the patient's licensed prescriber or consult a licensed prescriber of the patient's choice.
 - b. If the patient has a primary care provider, the pharmacist must notify the primary care provider of the prescription record and follow-up care plan within three business days.
 - c. The pharmacist must provide the patient with a record of the drug(s) or device(s).



8. **Documentation:** The pharmacist or pharmacy shall maintain documentation of patient's health screening and the prescription record for all drugs and devices in the pharmacy records for seven years in accordance with Indiana Code 16-39-7-1. A copy shall be made available to the patient and/or patient's provider upon request.

Geographic Region: This Standing Order is applicable statewide.

Standing Orders Authorization: This standing order is issued pursuant to Indiana Code 16-19-4-11, which allows the State Health Commissioner to issue a standing order that allows pharmacists to administer or dispense tobacco cessation products.

This Standing Order shall be reviewed annually by the state department of health and revised as needed. This Standing Order is effective January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

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