

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES
SERVICE SPECIFICATION**

Service Specification No:	CBS18-19(04)
Service:	Provision of Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapy
Authority Lead:	Adrian Allen
Period:	1st April 2018 – 31st March 2019
Commissioners:	Leicestershire County Council, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester, LE3 8TB

1. Purpose

This document represents the agreement between the provider and Leicestershire County Council for the previously mentioned community based service and is an appendix to the Contract for the Provision of Public Health Services.

From January 2017 Leicestershire stop smoking service Quit Ready will be provided by Leicestershire County Council department of Public Health.

The aim of the community-based service is to ensure smokers being treated by the Leicestershire County Stop Smoking (Smoking Cessation) service receive accurate, appropriate and timely stop smoking medications when appropriate as part of their treatment plans.

The Public Health England (PHE) Public Health Outcome Indicators (PHOF) for Leicestershire 2017 estimates that the smoking prevalence for the general population is 13%. This equates to approximately 92,748 adults (16+) in Leicestershire.

2. Service Scope

The Stop Smoking service forms part of a wider tobacco control programme. The Stop Smoking service is targeted at those individuals who smoke and are thinking of either quitting or cutting down their tobacco use. The Stop Smoking service will identify those smokers who want and are eligible to use prescription-only medication (Varenicline/Champix) as part of their overall treatment plan.

In the case of Varenicline//Champix being agreed as part of the treatment plan then the Stop Smoking service will send the smoker a voucher code and the smoker will be given the option to go to a participating community pharmacy to redeem the prescribed medication. The prescription will be filled following an assessment by the healthcare professional for suitability against the PGD inclusion and exclusion criteria and the summary of product characteristic indications and contraindications.

The Stop Smoking service is available to individuals aged 12 and above (18 and above for the use of Varenicline/Champix) who live, work or are registered with a GP within Leicestershire County.

3. Service Delivery

3.1 Service eligibility

To be eligible to participate in the Smoking Cessation community based service, the contractor must:

- Be able and competent to prescribe Varenicline.
- Be able and competent to dispense Varenicline.
- Ensure that all staff delivering the service have completed NCSCT approved training on very brief advice (VBA) and medications (www.ncsct.co.uk) and PGD training as appropriate. Evidence of training will be required by commissioners.
- It is the responsibility of the pharmacists working under the PGD to assess the patient's suitability against the PGD inclusion and exclusion criteria and the summary of product characteristic indications and contraindications.
- Keep an accurate electronic record of activity and interventions, to be submitted quarterly for payment through the Public Health online CBS claim system.

3.2 Description of Service

- i) All smokers engaging with the Leicestershire Stop Smoking service will develop a treatment plan with their Stop Smoking Advisor. Medication may form part of that plan.
- ii) With regards to stopping smoking there are three generally accepted MHRA approved medications that smokers may use. Varenicline is one of these.
- iii) Should Varenicline/Champix form part of the smoker's treatment plan then they will receive a voucher code from the Stop Smoking service which they then take to a participating community pharmacist to be dispensed.

Information sharing –

The following data/information must be collected and submitted quarterly for payment via the CBS online claim system at www.PH-CBS.org;

- Voucher code from the Stop Smoking Service which will include the medication to be dispensed
- Number of Varenicline/Champix prescription issued
- What part of regimen is being dispensed – starter pack, 28x1mg pack, 56x 1mg pack.

This information will be collected via the CBS online claims system on a quarterly basis for payment to be made to the qualifying community pharmacy.

Advice to pharmacies/Information/Data Requirements

The recommended dose regimen for Varenicline is to begin with a two-week starter pack one to two weeks before an agreed quit date, during which time the dose increases, followed by ten weeks of maintenance treatment as follows:

Dose	Duration
0.5 mg once daily	First three days
0.5 mg twice daily	Next four days
1 mg twice daily	Next seven days until starter pack finished
1 mg twice daily	Ten weeks

Varenicline is available as:

- A starter pack containing one blister of 11 x 0.5 mg tablets and a second blister of 14 x 1mg tablets.
- A blister pack containing 28 x 1 mg tablets.
- A blister pack containing 56 x 1 mg tablets.

To follow the recommended dose regimen the patient will require: • 1 x starter pack (2 weeks' supply); and • 140 x 1 mg tablets (i.e., 5 of the 28-tab 1 mg packs or 2.5 of the 56-tab 1 mg packs).

In exclusive circumstances individuals may receive a two week starter pack as part of a tapered or weaning down process at the end of treatment. This is at the discretion of the Stop Smoking Service Advisor and Manager on a case by case basis and will be communicated to the pharmacist.

In other circumstances if patients experience severe nausea the dose may be halved as per the advisors discretion and discussed with the patient. In these circumstances half the dose of the tablets will be recommended. For example, 0.5mg x 2 times per day for the duration of the treatment.

Pharmacists are required to submit all voucher codes/number of prescriptions dispensed on a quarterly basis via the CBS Online Claim system and this will be tallied against voucher codes issued by the Stop Smoking Service.

A smoker will be issued a voucher code from the Stop Smoking Service for each stage of their regimen and will be given the option to go to a participating community pharmacy to redeem the prescribed medication. **The smoker will be advised to attend the same pharmacist throughout their regimen to ensure continuity of care.**

Please note the submission dates below, but do take note that there may be some prescriptions that would fall over two quarters depending on initial assessment date.

Submissions can be input onto the CBS claim system and saved even before claim period has opened. These can then be submitted once the window for claim period opens.

	CLAIM PERIOD	DATE WHEN SUBMISSION RECEIVED BY LCC
Q1	April, May and June	July 1 st to July 15 th
Q2	July, August and September	October 1 st to October 15 th
Q3	October, November and December	January 1 st to January 15 th
Q4	January, February and March	April 1 st to April 15 th

An annual audit and review of the service delivered will be undertaken in line with the Public Health contract. For this purpose the following information/data will be audited in line with the PDG (appendix a)

- i) Evidence that the provider has assessed themselves against the relevant professional standards.
- ii) Evidence that all healthcare professionals providing the service hold membership of the appropriate professional body.
- iii) Pharmacies have a consultation room on site to ensure patient confidentiality and discretion during stop smoking screening consults.
- iv) Evidence that staff delivering the scheme remain up to date with relevant training and guidance and are required to attend at least one update training session per year as requested by the QuitReady Stop Smoking Service.
- v) Documentation of any significant variation or deviation in the quality of the service provided as specified. Note such variation or deviation must also be notified in writing to the Local Authority as soon as identified, with proposed actions to rectify.
- vi) Pharmacies are required to ensure that all appropriate paperwork regarding patient consultations are maintained and filed appropriately and are able to present as and when required by the LCC Contracts team and or the QuitReady Stop Smoking Service.

On occasion the Local Authority will undertake audits to assure the quality of the service. Providers will be notified in advance and will be expected to agree appropriate access. The provider should have/develop electronic systems to collect and record accurate and timely activity data in line with the requirements outlined above.

5. Additional Information

Leicestershire Stop Smoking Service is an e-cig friendly service and all smokers wanting to quit will be provided behavioural support. However, the service can only reimburse for MHRA approved medications and, as of this writing, there are no e-cigs approved by the MHRA on the market. If an individual presents using, or wanting to use, an electronic cigarette (e-cig) then the patient should be referred back to the Stop Smoking Service for behavioural support and advice on e-cigs.

All medication dispensed will only be reimbursed if accompanied by a valid voucher code as appropriate.

6. Contract Price and Payment Schedule

- Payments will not be made without proof of patient referral from Stop Smoking Service (voucher code)
- Should the actual prescription vary from the agreed prescription for any reason (loss to follow-up, patient stopping medication, etc) then the participant must provide explanation for reimbursement.

The following payments will be made to the provider for delivery of this service upon receipt of quarterly claims via the CBS online claim system. ;

INTERVENTION	Varenicline (18+)
First visit/ referral. Prescription reimbursement, inclusive of assessment	£10
Dispensing fee	£2.50 per pack dispensed (starter pack or 28x1mg or 56 x 1mg)
Drug cost (including lower rate 5% VAT)	Starter Pack -£27.30 + 5% VAT 28x1mg pack cost- £27.30 + 5% VAT 56x1mg pack cost- £54.60 + 5% VAT 28x0.5mg pack cost- £27.30 + VAT 56x0.5mg pack cost- £54.60+ VAT

7. Opt-in service for patients with mental ill health

We are offering pharmacists the opportunity to opt-in to help patients with mild to moderate mental ill health give up smoking. This includes mental health patients with mild to moderate symptoms rather than exclude them from receiving Champix. The initial screening and behavioural intervention will be provided by the stop smoking service advisor with medication dispensed by the pharmacist as per usual practice. Initial screening will be facilitated by the stop smoking service advisor supported by a screening questionnaire to ensure that any clients that are accepted for [pharmacy redemption of Varenicline, report stable mental health whilst accessing this service](#). Pharmacists will also provide screening and this will include screening questions (see PGD- appendix 6) that they will go through with the patient prior to dispensing Champix. The purpose of the screening questions ensures that the patient is stable and is in agreement of using Champix.

PGD (Appendix a – attached)

Definitions

Electronic cigarette (e-cigs) – Relatively new to the market, e-cigs provide users with nicotine and allow them to determine the dosage they need. E-cigs also provide a wide range of flavours for users to choose from.

Prescription only – Medications only available with a prescription.

Varenicline – Varenicline (trade name Champix usually in the form of varenicline tartrate), is a prescription medication used to treat nicotine addiction. Varenicline is a nicotinic receptor partial agonist—it stimulates nicotine receptors more weakly than nicotine itself does. In this respect it is similar to Cytisine and different from the nicotinic antagonist, bupropion, and nicotine replacement therapies(NRTs) like Nicotine patches and nicotine gum.

Very Brief Advice (VBA) – Better described as Brief Opportunistic advice; including 30 seconds brief advice based on Ask, Advise and Arrange model. **Ask:** Do you use tobacco, **Advise:** tailor the message, why it's important to stop smoking and **Arrange:** refer to the stop smoking service. VBA module can be accessed via the National Centre for Smoking Cessation training (NCSCT) on www.ncsct.co.uk