



## **North East North Cumbria Integrated Care System Maternity e NRT voucher service**

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### **Background and Introduction**

**message from Becca Scott, Smoke Free Pregnancies lead, Public Health Prevention Strategic Manager for Maternity  
North East & North Cumbria Integrated Care System (ICS)**

Dear Pharmacy Teams

I would like to highlight to you the new **ICS Maternity NRT E-voucher Scheme** and introduce the North East North Cumbria (NENC) ICS Public Health Prevention in Maternity (PHPiM) Programme.

The PHPiM Programme started in 2018, to support local areas to reduce the risk of health inequalities and high rates of smoking in pregnancy. With the advent of the NHS Long Term plan (2019) early recognition and priority was given to improving pathways of care for tobacco dependency in pregnancy and the need to rapidly facilitate access to NRT via a regional pathway. From summer 2022 all maternity services are now providing cessation support and NRT.

The PHPiM Programme has been working with the NENC Senior Pharmacy Leads and your provider company, Pharmacy Services North East (PSNE) Ltd, and on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 we launched an ICS wide Nicotine Replacement Therapy e-voucher scheme (operated through PharmOutcomes). Its aim is to improve community provision of NRT to this high-risk group. Until this time, we had some areas with no NRT provision at all, making the difficult challenge of quitting smoking almost an impossible task for some women.

We really value your support with this service; it would be great if all NENC pharmacy providers sign up to it; details of how to do so are provided below. As a region we have made steady progress to reduce smoking rates; we believe this

scheme will further accelerate our efforts. Please refer to the [service specification](#) on the PSNE website for further details.

## Training

If not already completed, I highly recommend all appropriate staff undertake the online Very Brief Advice (VBA) training which takes a maximum of 30 minutes with [NCSCT e-learning](#) and around 15 minutes by accessing through E-Learning for Health [HEE elfh Hub \(e-lfh.org.uk\)](#).

There are additional modules specific to pregnancy on the NCSCT website but there is no obligation to undertake these. I attach a [quick reference guide to what is VBA](#) which you may find is already being provided as part of your dispensing process.

Many thanks for your support in getting this implemented and improving the health of population.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the team at [nhc-tr.nenc.phpim@nhs.net](mailto:nhc-tr.nenc.phpim@nhs.net)

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## Service sign-up

Thank you to the many pharmacies which have already signed up to provide the service. For those independent pharmacies which have not yet had chance to do so a contract variation is now available for completion in your Services area on PharmOutcomes. For multiples, a document has been emailed to head office for action.

**If you can see the 'PSNE Service 2022-23 Contract Variation' in your 'Services' tab, please complete it as soon as possible. If you cannot see this, a contract variation has been sent to head office.**

## How to access the e referrals

**Pharmacies will not see this service listed under the services tab on PharmOutcomes. Pharmacies will access the e referrals (see below) as they do for other services e.g., CPCS.**

Pregnant women who smoke will be provided with behavioural support by a specialist maternity stop smoking adviser. A voucher for supply of NRT will then be

sent electronically via PharmOutcomes to the woman's chosen pharmacy which is participating in the service. She will then attend the pharmacy to ensure the product(s) are clinically suitable for her and receive supply. The supply will be recorded on PharmOutcomes, and claims generated automatically.

If you have further questions, please contact [helpdesk@psne.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@psne.co.uk)

#### **Supporting documents**

- [A helpful comparison guide of alternative pharmacy contract provisions in relation to tobacco](#)
- [Details of how to get in touch with the stop smoking services](#)
- [Service specification](#)
- [Quick reference guide to what is Very Brief Advice \(VBA\)](#)