

Equality and Health Impact Assessment

Policy* title: Initial clinical management of nicotine withdrawal in adults in secondary care

AWMSG and AWTTC will consider and complete an Equality and Health Impact Assessment in parallel with each development stage of our policies. This will help us to follow the five ways of working for public bodies, and work to achieving the wellbeing goals, outlined in the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

* The term “policy” is used throughout to cover: policies, strategies, functions, practices, procedures.

Date: 15/11/2024

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| 1. | AWTTC contact details | Tel: 02921 826900; email: awttc@wales.nhs.uk |
| 2. | State the objectives of the policy. | <p>To help healthcare staff working in secondary care in Wales to support adult patients with nicotine dependency during their stay in hospital. The document gives guidance and information on starting nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) for adults with nicotine dependency, and has been updated to include information on the use of vapes (e-cigarettes or electronic nicotine delivery systems).</p> <p>The document covers initial assessment and prescribing of NRT, and prescribing of additional “when required” NRT products; providing additional support and advice to patients, and summarises the training available for healthcare staff.</p> |
| 3. | <p>Evidence and background information considered.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • population data • staff and service users’ data, as applicable • needs assessment • engagement and involvement findings | <p>In March 2021 the Welsh government’s smoke-free policy changed to make it illegal to smoke on hospital grounds across Wales (with the exemption of mental health units). Therefore, there is a need for adults with a nicotine dependence to be given, or signposted to, pharmacotherapy and/or behavioural support to manage the symptoms of nicotine withdrawal while they are in hospital.</p> |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• research• good practice guidelines• participant knowledge• list of stakeholders and how stakeholders have engaged in the development stages• comments from those involved in the designing and development stages <p>Population pyramids are available from Public Health Wales Observatory.</p> | <p>Some health boards in Wales have also chosen to prohibit the use of vapes on hospital grounds. Welsh policy on the use of vapes and services for those with a nicotine addiction is currently under review. It is essential that the updated information in this document aligns with any changes and messages from Public Health Wales. AWTTC is in contact with Public Health Wales and Welsh Government and will ensure that information and messaging is consistent and clear.</p> |
| 4. | Who will this policy affect? | <p>Healthcare staff working in secondary care (nurses, doctors, pharmacists and smoking cessation practitioners) in Wales. Adults who smoke, or use vapes, who are admitted to hospital and their families and carers.</p> |

5. EQIA - How will the policy impact on people?

Questions in this section relate to the impact on people on the basis of their 'protected characteristics'.

Specific alignment with the 7 goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is included against the relevant sections.

| How will the policy impact on, or affect: | Potential positive and/or negative impacts | Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation | Actions taken (and who by). Refer to where the mitigation is included in the document, as appropriate. |
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| <p>5.1 Age For most purposes, the main categories are people aged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 18 years; • between 18 and 65 years; • over 65 years. | <p>The guidance applies to adults aged over 18 years only. It will not cover people aged under 18 years who are admitted to hospital and have a nicotine addiction.</p> <p>For prescription medicines we expect the prescriber to have prescribed or advised their use within the terms of their UK marketing authorisations (SPCs). Healthcare professionals should take note of the contraindications, warnings, safety recommendations and any monitoring needs for the medicine. These are explained in the SPC for the medicine or</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |




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| | the British National Formulary . Most of the medicines described in this guidance are licensed for use from 12 years of age, but because of complexities around the use of NRT in people aged under 18 years we have decided to limit this document to adults only. | | |
| 5.2 Persons with a disability as defined in the Equality Act 2010 Those with physical impairments, learning disability, sensory loss or impairment, mental health conditions, long-term medical conditions such as diabetes. | We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people with a disability. | All documents published on the AWTTC website will meet accessibility requirements. Any patient-facing materials will be also be produced as easy read booklets in Welsh and English. | N/A |
| 5.3 People of different genders: Consider men, women, people undergoing gender reassignment. NB Gender-reassignment is anyone who proposes to, starts, is going through or who has | We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people based on their gender, or on people undergoing gender reassignment. | N/A | N/A |



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| completed a process to change his or her gender with or without going through any medical procedures. Sometimes referred to as Trans or Transgender. | | | |
| 5.4 People who are married or who have a civil partner. | We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people based on their marital status or being in a civil partnership. | N/A | N/A |
| 5.5 Women who are expecting a baby, who are on a break from work after having a baby, or who are breastfeeding. They are protected for 26 weeks after having a baby whether or not they are on maternity leave. | We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on women who are expecting a baby, are breastfeeding, or are on a break from work after having a baby. | N/A | N/A |
| 5.6 People of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin including non-English speakers, gypsies/travellers, migrant workers. | We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people of a different race, nationality, colour, culture or ethnic origin. | N/A | N/A |



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| <p>5.7 People with a religion or belief or with no religion or belief. The term 'religion' includes a religious or philosophical belief.</p> | <p>We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people who have a religion or belief, or people with no religion or belief.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>5.8 People who are attracted to other people of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the opposite sex (heterosexual); • the same sex (lesbian or gay); • both sexes (bisexual). | <p>We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people based on who they are attracted to.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>5.9 People who communicate using the Welsh language in terms of correspondence, information leaflets, or service plans and design.</p>  <p>Well-being goal – A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p> | <p>Any patient-facing materials developed to accompany this guidance will be produced in Welsh and English, including easy read booklets.</p> | <p>Ensure any materials produced for patients and the public are available in Welsh and English.</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>5.10 People according to their income related group. Consider people on low income, economically inactive,</p> | <p>We do not expect the guidance to have a potential negative impact on people based on their income related group.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |




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| unemployed/workless, people who are unable to work due to ill-health. | | | |
| 5.11 People according to where they live. Consider people living in areas known to show poor economic and/or health indicators, people unable to access services and facilities. | Currently, policies about vaping differ between health boards in Wales. People with nicotine dependency who are admitted to hospitals in areas of Wales where the use of vapes is prohibited, will need to be supported to manage symptoms of withdrawal while in hospital. A potential negative impact until an All Wales policy is agreed. | Add note to document stating that until an All Wales policy about vaping is agreed, people with nicotine dependency who are admitted to hospitals in Wales where the use of vapes is prohibited, will need to be supported to manage symptoms of withdrawal while in hospital. | Author and AWTTC worked collaboratively with HMQH Programme Board who agreed and advised that we added a note to document stating that where vaping is not permitted, inpatients who vape and are nicotine-dependent should be offered support and provided with NRT (Nicorette Quick mist) in the same manner as inpatients who smoke, to manage their nicotine withdrawal during their inpatient stay. |
| 5.12 Consider others who face health inequalities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looked after and accommodated children and young people.• Carers: paid/unpaid, family members.• People who are homeless or those who experience | Currently, policies about vaping differ between health boards in Wales. People with nicotine dependency who are admitted to hospitals where the use of vapes is prohibited, will need to be supported to manage symptoms of withdrawal while in | Add note to document stating that until an All Wales policy about vaping is agreed, people with nicotine dependency who are admitted to hospitals in Wales where the use of vapes is prohibited, will need | Author and AWTTC worked collaboratively with HMQH Programme Board who agreed and advised that we added a note to document stating that where vaping is not permitted, inpatients who vape and are nicotine-dependent should be offered |





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| <p>homelessness: people on the street; those staying temporarily with friends/family; those in hostels/B&Bs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Those involved in the criminal justice system: offenders in prison or on probation, ex-offenders.• People with addictions and substance misuse problems.• People who have poor literacy.• People living in remote, rural and island locations. | <p>hospital. A potential negative impact until an All Wales policy is agreed.</p> | <p>to be supported to manage symptoms of withdrawal while in hospital.</p> | <p>support and provided with NRT (Nicorette Quick mist) in the same manner as inpatients who smoke, to manage their nicotine withdrawal during their inpatient stay.</p> |
| 5.13 Consider any other groups and risk factors relevant to this project. | N/A | N/A | N/A |

6. HIA - How will the policy impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Wales and help address inequalities in health?


Questions in this section relate to the impact on the overall health of individual people, and the impact on the population in Wales. Specific alignment with the 7 goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is included against the relevant sections.

| How will the policy impact on, or affect: | Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected | Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation | Actions taken (and who by) Refer to where the mitigation is included in the document, as appropriate. |
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| <p>6.1 People being able to access the service offered. Consider access for those living in areas of deprivation and/or those experiencing health inequalities.</p>  <p>Well-being goal - A more equal Wales</p> | <p>Currently, policies about vaping differ between health boards in Wales. People with nicotine dependency who are admitted to hospitals in areas of Wales where the use of vapes is prohibited, will need to be supported to manage symptoms of withdrawal while in hospital. A potential negative impact until an All Wales policy is agreed.</p> | <p>Could add a note to the document stating that until an All Wales policy about vaping is agreed, people with nicotine dependency who are admitted to hospitals in Wales where the use of vapes is prohibited, will need to be supported to manage symptoms of withdrawal while in hospital.</p> | <p>Author and AWTTC added note to the document, stating that where vaping is not permitted, inpatients who vape and are nicotine-dependent should be offered support and provided with NRT (Nicorette Quick mist) in the same manner as inpatients who smoke, to manage their nicotine withdrawal during their inpatient stay.</p> |
| <p>6.2 People being able to improve or maintain healthy lifestyles. Consider the impact on healthy lifestyles, including healthy eating, being active, no smoking /smoking cessation, reducing the harm caused by alcohol or non-prescribed drugs plus access to services that support disease prevention</p> | <p>The guidance aims to help healthcare staff to support adults with nicotine dependency while they are in hospital, and includes information on supporting patients who would like to quit smoking. It provides an opportunity to support people who might want to try to quit smoking.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |





| How will the policy impact on, or affect: | Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected | Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation | Actions taken (and who by) Refer to where the mitigation is included in the document, as appropriate. |
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| <p>(such as vaccination, falls prevention).</p> <p>Also consider impact on access to supportive services, including smoking cessation services, weight management services.</p>  <p>Well-being goal – A healthier Wales</p> | | | |
| <p>6.3 People in terms of their income and employment status.</p> <p>Consider the impact on the availability and accessibility of work, paid or unpaid employment, wage levels, job security, working conditions.</p>  <p>Well-being goal – A prosperous Wales</p> | <p>We do not expect this guidance to have a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of their income and employment status.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>6.4 People in terms of their use of the physical environment.</p> <p>Consider the impact:</p> | <p>The guidance supports Welsh Government’s smoke-free policy to make it illegal to smoke on hospital grounds in</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |



| How will the policy impact on, or affect: | Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected | Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation | Actions taken (and who by) Refer to where the mitigation is included in the document, as appropriate. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on the availability and accessibility of transport, healthy food, leisure activities, green spaces; • of the design of the built environment on the physical and mental health of patients, staff and visitors; • on air quality, exposure to pollutants; • safety of neighbourhoods, exposure to crime; • road safety and preventing injuries or accidents; • quality and safety of play areas and open spaces.  <p>Well-being goal – A resilient Wales</p> | <p>Wales – which improves the air quality for all patients, staff and visitors.</p> | | |
| <p>6.5 People in terms of social and community influences on their health. Consider the impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family organisation and roles; social support and social networks; | <p>We do not expect this guidance to have a potential negative, or unequal, impact on people in terms of social and community influences on their health.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |



| How will the policy impact on, or affect: | Potential positive and/or negative impacts and any particular groups affected | Recommendations for improvement/ mitigation | Actions taken (and who by) Refer to where the mitigation is included in the document, as appropriate. |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• neighbourliness and sense of belonging;• social isolation;• peer pressure;• community identity;• cultural and spiritual ethos.  <p>Well-being goal – A Wales of cohesive communities</p> | | | |
| <p>6.6 People in terms of macro-economic, environmental and sustainability factors. Consider the impact of government policies; gross domestic product; economic development; biological diversity; climate.</p>  <p>Well-being goal – A globally responsible Wales</p> | <p>Supporting people to reduce vape use has a positive environmental impact. Because many vapes are designed to be single use, and all contain plastic and a battery component.</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>N/A</p> |

7. Please complete section 7 after completing the EqHIA, and complete the action plan.

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| <p>7.1 Please summarise the potential positive and/or negative impacts of the policy.</p> | <p>The guidance is expected to have a positive impact in helping healthcare staff to support patients with nicotine dependency while they are in hospital, and also on patients, and their families and carers, who want to quit smoking. While policies on vaping differ between hospitals across Wales – there will potentially be a negative impact on people who use vapes, until an All Wales policy is agreed.</p> |
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Action plan for mitigation or improvement and implementation

| | Action | Lead(s) | Timescale | Actions taken |
|--|--|--------------|---|--|
| <p>7.2 What are the key actions identified as a result of completing the EqHIA?</p> | <p>Send to the All Wales Prescribing Advisory Group (AWPAG) for consideration.</p> <p>Send out for public consultation</p> <p>Send to the AWPAG for consideration</p> <p>Send to AWMSG for endorsement</p> | <p>AWTTC</p> | <p>September 2023</p> <p>October–November 2023</p> <p>September 2024</p> <p>November 2024</p> | <p>Minor changes made to document.</p> <p>Changes made to the document</p> <p>Minor changes made to document</p> <p>Endorsed – with minor changes made to document</p> |
| <p>7.3 Is a more comprehensive Equalities Impact Assessment or Health Impact Assessment needed?</p> | <p>No</p> | | | |



| | Action | Lead(s) | Timescale | Actions taken |
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| This means thinking about relevance and proportionality to the Equality Act and asking: is the impact significant enough that a more formal and full consultation is required? | | | | |
| 7.4 What are the next steps? | Publish on AWTTC website | AWTTC | November 2024 | |

AWTTC's EqHIA template is adapted from the Cardiff & Vale University Health Board EHIA template.