

Inpatient staff training

Introduction and context

The NHS Long Term Plan set out clear commitments for the NHS to support the rollout of new tobacco dependence treatment services, identifying smoking status for all patients admitted overnight to hospital or accessing maternity services. This should include an opt-out offer for all current smokers.

These new services will be underpinned by a skilled workforce of Tobacco Dependence Advisers who are appropriately trained and confident in delivering tobacco dependence treatment interventions. Training should also be delivered to other staff groups who will be able to provide Very Brief Advice to patients and/or who are responsible for conducting the initial tobacco dependence assessment and initiating nicotine replacement therapy – facilitating the incorporation of proactive upstream prevention and disease management into routine pathways and processes.

Recommendations for training

- Patient-facing staff should receive training that is appropriate to their role in the tobacco dependence treatment pathway.
- Training is relevant not only to medical and nursing staff, but **all frontline healthcare professionals**, as the intervention can be delivered irrespective of grade, role or clinical registration – the expertise in delivering the expert advice is key.
- Different modes of training should be made available, e.g. face-to-face, online, observed practice and mentoring.

National training suite for Tobacco Dependence Advisers in acute and mental health inpatient settings – coming soon

NHS England has commissioned the National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training (NCSCT) to develop a National Training Suite for Tobacco Dependence Advisers (TDAs) working in both the acute and mental health inpatient settings. This will include a suite of training resources to support local trainers with TDA training to the recommended standard as set out in [competency frameworks](#).

The training suite will include all materials for local trainers to deliver training, including: course outlines, trainer's guides, PowerPoint decks, trainer's notes, case studies and reference materials. Trusts may also choose to commission training.

Additionally, Standard Treatment Programmes are being developed for both acute and mental health settings that will serve as key clinical guidance for delivering high quality tobacco dependence treatment in NHS inpatient settings. The national TDA training suite will be pilot tested this Autumn 2023 and will be available to all trusts by the end of January 2024, with introductory webinars to follow.

Training resources currently available

While the national TDA training resources are being developed, the below table provides a broad summary of the training needs and available training across the different models and staff groups, in order to facilitate the delivery of inpatient tobacco dependence treatment services across providers that are now starting implementation.

In addition, **competency frameworks** for delivering tobacco dependence interventions have been developed in collaboration with the NCSCT and can be found on the [Tobacco Dependence FutureNHS platform](#). The frameworks identified the competencies (knowledge and skills) required by frontline staff, staff involved in prescribing/dispensing nicotine replacement therapy, and TDAs or other staff delivering specialist tobacco dependence treatment in the inpatient setting.

	Staff group	Training need	Extrenal training resources
Mental health	All	VBA	eLFH SYB QUIT Module 1 NCSCT VBA NCSCT other resources
	Tobacco Dependence Advisers	VBA; where used, training for the use of CO monitors; evidence-based behavioural support; regulated & consumer nicotine products; drug interactions; local pathways and protocols; leadership	NCSCT Stop Smoking Practitioner Training & Assessment Programme* SYB QUIT Modules 2-4 NCSCT Stop Smoking Medication Course Vaping: A guide for Health Care Professionals
Acute	All	VBA	eLFH SYB QUIT Module 1 NCSCT VBA NCSCT other resources
	Tobacco Dependence Advisers	VBA; where used, training for the use of CO monitors; evidence-based behavioural support; regulated & consumer nicotine	NCSCT Stop Smoking Practitioner Training & Assessment Programme*

		products; drug interactions; local pathways and protocols; leadership	SYB QUIT Modules 2-4 NCSCT Stop Smoking Medication Course Vaping: A guide for Health Care Professionals *Provides necessary qualification for National Stop Smoking Practitioner Certification
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It should be noted that a lot of established training has focused on community settings and on people who are motivated and activated to make a lifestyle change – which does not reflect the secondary care based [recommended opt-out model of treatment](#).

Whilst the fundamental skills and knowledge that the interim training sets out are transferable, staff should ensure that they are aware of the recommended opt-out model being underpinned by the following principles:

- There is an underlying dependence – the medical management of **tobacco dependence, which is a disease specific clinical condition**, not a lifestyle choice. We want to **treat** that dependence.
- People being admitted overnight will be more open to making changes to improve their health, and as such, their admission can be a “teachable moment”, and we should be **making every contact count** to provide them the opportunity to commence a quit attempt and focus on a smokefree admission.