

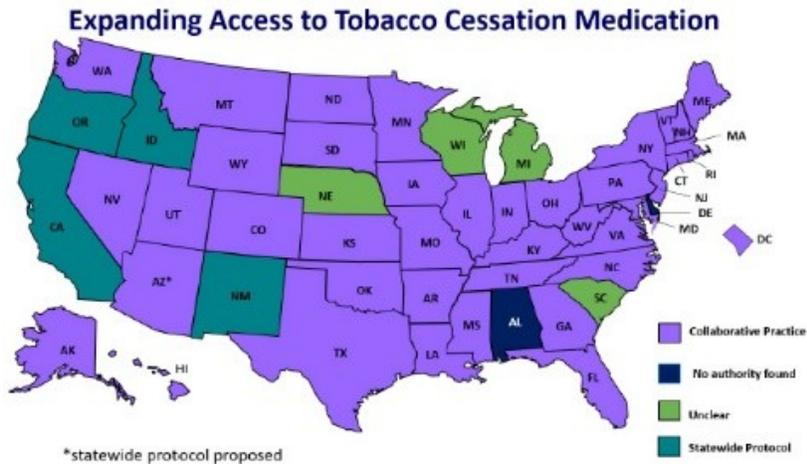
Pharmacists Expanding Healthcare Access Tobacco Cessation Treatment Programs

Pharmacists providing tobacco cessation treatment programs are part of the solution.

According to the Minnesota Department of Health, smoking causes 5,900 deaths and over \$2.5 billion in medical costs every year in Minnesota. Youth tobacco use has risen for the first time in 17 years with more than 26% of high schoolers using tobacco or nicotine. [1] More Minnesotans die from tobacco than alcohol, homicides, car accidents, AIDS, illegal drugs, and suicide combined. [2] A report by the surgeon general estimated that the national healthcare cost of smoking is around \$170 billion annually. [3]

Smokers are 1.7-2.2 times more likely to quit smoking successfully for at least five months when receiving assistance from a local healthcare professional. [4] Pharmacists, as the most accessible health care professionals, can play an integral role in helping individuals quit smoking. A study found that community pharmacist intervention led to a 12.7% increase in smoking cessation rates through interventions related to tobacco cessation. [5]

Pharmacists in other states [6]



Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Maine and New Mexico currently allow pharmacists to prescribe smoking cessation and replacement products.

For More Information

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On behalf of Minnesota
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[1] Survey shows Minnesota youth tobacco use rising for the first time in 17 years. Minnesota Dept of Health. <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/tpc/index.html>.

[2] Minnesota Dept of Health. Minnesota Comprehensive Tobacco Control Framework 2016-2021. (n.d.). Retrieved from http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/hpcd/tpc/docs/MN_tobacco_control_framework.pdf

[3] Jha, P. et al. (2013). 21st-Century Hazards of Smoking and Benefits of Cessation in the United States. *N Eng J Med*, 368, 341-350.

[4] Centers for Disease Control. Quitting Smoking. (2017, February 01). Retrieved from https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/cessation/quitting/

[5] Sinclair, Hazel K., Christine M. Bond, and Lindsay F. Stead. (2004). Community pharmacy personnel interventions for smoking cessation. *The Cochrane Library*.

[6] "Access to Tobacco Cessation Medication through Pharmacists - ASTHO." 8 Feb. 2017, <http://www.astho.org/Prevention/Tobacco/Tobacco-Cessation-Via-Pharmacists/>.