



NORTH AMERICAN
QUITLINE
CONSORTIUM

MINIMAL DATA SET

New Questions on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS)

September 2015

NAQC'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE MDS

The Minimal Data Set (MDS) is a set of standardized intake and follow-up questions, first completed in mid-2005 and adopted by all quitlines in North America by early 2006; it is used by many quitlines outside of this region as well. An important benefit of the MDS is the standardized questions, which allow for evaluation of quitlines both individually and as a community. The MDS includes STANDARD questions, which are required to be asked of quitline participants, and OPTIONAL questions, which provide standardized language for quitlines that choose to adopt the question. A major strength of the MDS is its ability to evolve over time to reflect new topics and issues of importance to the quitline and research communities. Since 2006, changes to the MDS have been spearheaded by NAQC members as well as NAQC staff.

OVERVIEW OF PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING MDS QUESTIONS ON ENDS

In May 2015, NAQC established a workgroup to recommend questions on Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems (ENDS) for the MDS. The importance of addressing ENDS use within the MDS was highlighted by NAQC's [Cessation Treatment & E-Cigarettes](#) report which revealed that some quitlines had begun to collect information on ENDS from quitline participants, but with no standard for data collection across quitlines. With the creation of the MDS workgroup on ENDS, NAQC aimed to create a set of standardized questions on ENDS that reflects the growing science-base on ENDS and current practice among quitlines. Given the evolving body of research, literature and regulations on ENDS products, NAQC plans to reassess the MDS ENDS questions within the next three to five years to ensure they continue to be aligned with the science base, regulation and current practice among quitlines.

The MDS ENDS Workgroup met five times between May 12, 2015 and September 3, 2015, and accomplished the following tasks:

- A review of key background materials, including questions used in 19 different surveys on ENDS;
- Development of draft recommendations that were shared with NAQC members and partners;
- A review of feedback on the draft and development of final recommendations; and
- Submission of final recommendations to NAQC on September 23.

OVERVIEW OF THE MDS QUESTIONS ON ENDS

- One STANDARD question has been added to the MDS Intake and Follow-up that will assess for current use of ENDS products among quitline participants. This STANDARD question will provide quitlines with the basic information about the use of ENDS by participants for treatment, surveillance and evaluation purposes, while adding minimal time to the intake process.
- Four OPTIONAL questions have been developed for the MDS Intake and Follow-up that provide the quitline community with questions to assess for frequency of use, reason for use, intent to quit and use of products with or without nicotine. These OPTIONAL questions will provide quitlines with additional information on participants for treatment, surveillance and evaluation purposes should a quitline have the resources to ask the questions.
- No MDS question has been developed on the type of ENDS product used by quitline participants, although the workgroup, staff and NAQC members who commented on the draft recommendations discussed the importance of such a question and raised a variety of options and approaches. Regrettably, the research is still evolving and there is no clear standard for how best to ask about type of ENDS

product. NAQC will continue to monitor the literature, engage in discussions with researchers and quitlines on ENDS, and reassess the addition of this type of question in the near future.

The full text of the STANDARD and OPTIONAL MDS questions on ENDS is provided in the following pages. A table summarizing the STANDARD and OPTIONAL questions on ENDS is located at the end of the report.

NEW DEFINITIONS

To assist quitline participants who are unsure of what ENDS products are, NAQC offers a standard definition that may be useful for quitline registration staff and intake counselors. To keep the total time spend on Intake/Registration to a minimum, the definition was developed for use only if needed with individual quitline participants and not as a preamble to ENDS questions that would be read to all quitline participants.

Definition of E-Cigarettes, Electronic “Vaping”/ENDS Products for Registration/Intake Counselors

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and other electronic “vaping” products, are battery-powered, usually contain liquid nicotine, and produce an aerosol instead of smoke. You may also know these products as vape-pens, hookah-pens, e-hookahs, e-cigars, or e-vaporizers.

TIMEFRAME FOR ADOPTION OF MDS ENDS QUESTIONS

NAQC recommends that quitlines incorporate the STANDARD MDS Intake and Follow-up questions on ENDS, as well as any OPTIONAL questions the quitline may choose, **beginning January 1, 2016**. This will ensure that quitline evaluations begun after January 2016 will include questions necessary for calculating the new NAQC quit rates (please see [Calculating Quit Rates, 2015 Update](#) paper).

DESCRIPTION OF MDS INTAKE QUESTIONS ON ENDS

1. Assessment of Current Use of ENDS Products

This STANDARD MDS Intake question broadly assesses current use of ENDS products among quitline participants. This question will allow quitlines to identify quitline participants who have used ENDS products for both treatment and surveillance purposes, while adding minimal time to the overall intake process.

STANDARD MDS INTAKE Question			
Question	Response Option	MDS Positioning	Notes
Have you used an e-cigarette or other electronic “vaping” product in the past 30 days?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don’t Know • Refused • Not asked 	SI10	This question should asked of all quitline participants at intake.

2. Assessment of Frequency of Use ENDS

This OPTIONAL MDS Intake question assesses frequency of use of ENDS products among quitline participants that have indicated they have used the ENDS products within the past 30 days. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, the question would provide quitlines with additional data needed to differentiate between casual, experimental and regular use of ENDS products among quitline participants for both treatment and surveillance needs. As more data on ENDS use is published and there is a clearer understanding of the frequency of use of ENDS products, this question will be reassessed by NAQC.

OPTIONAL MDS INTAKE Question			
Question	Response Option	MDS Positioning	Notes
How many days did you use an e-cigarette or electronic “vaping” product in the last 30 days?	Record number of days stated by caller (1-30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refused • Not asked 	OI11	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.

3. Assessment of Reason for Use of ENDS Product

This OPTIONAL MDS Intake question assesses the reason for use of ENDS products. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, this question could provide useful information from the treatment and surveillance perspectives, while adding minimal time to the overall intake process.

There are many reasons for people to use ENDS products which a broader question on reason(s) for use would capture. However, there are several reasons a broader question on reason for use of ENDS, with either an open ended response option or a drop-down menu with categories for reason for use, would be burdensome to quitlines.

- The time and human resources needed to analyze data for meaningful information
- The time added to Intake with reading response category options to quitline participants
- The possibility of creating an “order effect” to quitline participant’s responses due to the order response categories are read.

For quitlines the most important information to collect regarding the reason for use is whether ENDS are being used for quitting smoking. Quitline cessation counselors/coaches are able to gather additional reasons for use of ENDS during the first counseling session to further aid the counselors/coaches in assisting quitline participants.

OPTIONAL MDS INTAKE Question			
Question	Response Options	MDS Positioning	Notes
People use e-cigarette/e-vaping products for a variety of reasons, are you currently using e-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don’t Know • Refused 	OI12	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.

cigarettes/e-vaping products to quit smoking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not asked 		
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4. Assessment of Nicotine vs. No Nicotine in ENDS

This OPTIONAL MDS Intake question assesses for nicotine vs. no nicotine in the ENDS product used by the quitline participant. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, the information would be useful from the treatment and surveillance perspectives.

Due to a lack of industry regulation of manufacturing and labeling of ENDS products, there are inconsistencies within and across ENDS product; meaning nicotine could be present in products that state they do not contain nicotine. Therefore, the best measure, at this point, for determining if the ENDS product used by a quitline participant contained nicotine or not is to ask the quitline participant about what they believe to be true. This information can assist with development of a cessation treatment plan, as well as surveillance of ENDS use among quitline participants.

OPTIONAL MDS INTAKE Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<i>MDS Positioning</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Do you use an e-cigarette/e-vaping product that contains nicotine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't Know • Refused • Not asked 	OI13	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.

5. Assessment of Intent to Quit Use of ENDS

This OPTIONAL MDS Intake question assesses intent to quit using ENDS Products in the next 30 days. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, the information would be useful from the treatment and surveillance perspectives. For example, the question would identify quitline participants who may need additional assistance with quitting ENDS.

OPTIONAL MDS INTAKE Question

<i>Question</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<i>MDS Positioning</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Do you intend to completely quit using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products within the next 30 days?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don't Know • Refused 	OI14	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.

DESCRIPTION OF MDS FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS ON ENDS

6. Assessment of Current Use of ENDS Products

This STANDARD MDS Follow-up question broadly assesses current use of ENDS products among quitline participants. This question is relevant for the evaluation of quitlines (individually and as a community), while adding minimal time and cost to the evaluation.

STANDARD MDS Follow-up Question			
Question	Response Option	MDS Positioning	Notes
Have you used an e-cigarette or other electronic “vaping” product in the past 30 days?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don’t Know • Refused • Not asked 	SF9	This question should be asked of all quitline participants who consented to follow-up and were included in the follow-up sample.

7. Assessment of Frequency of Use of ENDS Products

This OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up question assesses frequency of use of ENDS products among quitline participants that have indicated they have used the ENDS products within the past 30 days. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, this question provides additional data needed to differentiate between casual, experimental and regular use of ENDS products among quitline participants. At follow-up, this question could also help quitlines (individually and as a community) determine if frequency of use of ENDS products changes over time. As more data on ENDS use is published and there is a clearer understanding of the frequency of use of ENDS products, this question will be reassessed by NAQC.

OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up Question			
Question	Response Option	MDS Positioning	Notes
How many days did you use an e-cigarette or electronic “vaping” product in the last 30 days?	Record number of days (0-30) stated by caller <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refused • Not asked 	OF10	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.

8. Assessment of Reason for Use of ENDS Product at Follow-up

This OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up question assesses reason for use of ENDS products. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, this question provides useful information for the evaluation of quitlines (individually and as a community), and from the treatment perspective should the quitline re-engage the participant in a quit attempt.

There are many reasons for people to use ENDS products which a broader question on reason(s) for use would capture. However, there are several reasons a broader question on reason for use of ENDS, with either an open ended response option or a drop-down menu with categories for reason for use, would be burdensome to quitlines.

- The time and human resources needed to analyze data for meaningful information
- The time added to Intake with reading response category options to quitline participants
- The possibility of creating an “order effect” to quitline participant’s responses due to the order response categories are read.

For quitlines the most important information to collect regarding the reason for use is whether ENDS are being used for quitting smoking.

OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up Question			
<i>Question</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<i>MDS Positioning</i>	<i>Notes</i>
People use e-cigarette/e-vaping products for a variety of reasons, are you currently using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products to quit smoking?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don’t Know • Refused • Not asked 	OF11	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.

9. Assessment of Nicotine vs. No Nicotine in ENDS

This OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up question assesses for nicotine vs. no nicotine in the ENDS product used by the quitline participant. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, the information would be useful for evaluation (individually and as a community) and from the treatment perspective should the quitline re-engage the participant in a quit attempt treatment.

Due to a lack of industry regulation of manufacturing and labeling of ENDS products, there are inconsistencies within and across ENDS products; meaning nicotine could be present in products that state they do not contain nicotine. Therefore, the best measure, at this point, for determining if the ENDS product used by a quitline participant contained nicotine or not is to ask the quitline participant about what they believe to be true.

OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up Question			
<i>Question</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<i>MDS Positioning</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Do you use an E-cigarettes/e-vaping product that contains nicotine?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • No • Don’t Know • Refused • Not asked 	OF12	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.

10. Assessment of Intent to Quit Use of ENDS

This OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up question assesses intent to quit using ENDS Products in the next 30 days. If a quitline has the resources to add the question and analyze the data, this question would provide useful information for evaluation (individually and as a community), as well as from a treatment perspective in determining whether or not to reengage the quitline participant in a new quit attempt.

OPTIONAL MDS Follow-up Question			
<i>Question</i>	<i>Response Options</i>	<i>MDS Positioning</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Do you intend to completely quit using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products within the next 30 days?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes• No• Don't Know• Refused• Not asked	OF13	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The MDS ENDS Workgroup was comprised of 10 members representing quitline funders, quitline service providers, state tobacco control units, tobacco control researchers and the CDC (see below). Maria Rudie, Research Manager for NAQC, provided staff support and leadership to the workgroup. NAQC would like to acknowledge the efforts of the workgroup members and thank them for their important contributions in developing the MDS questions on ENDS.

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Table of MDS Questions on ENDS

Item	Intake or Follow-up	STANDARD or OPTIONAL	Question	Response Options	Question Position within the MDS	Notes
1	Intake	STANDARD	Have you used an e-cigarette or other electronic “vaping” product in the past 30 days?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	SI10	This question should be asked of all quitline participants at intake.
2	Intake	OPTIONAL	How many days did you use an e-cigarette or electronic “vaping” product in the last 30 days?	Record number of days (0 – 30) stated by caller Refused Not asked	OI11	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.
3	Intake	OPTIONAL	People use e-cigarette/e-vaping products for a variety of reasons, are you currently using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products to quit smoking?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	OI12	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.
4	Intake	OPTIONAL	Do you use an e-cigarettes/e-vaping product that contains nicotine?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	OI13	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.
5	Intake	OPTIONAL	Do you intend to completely quit using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products within the next 30 days?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	OI14	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SI10.

6	Follow-up	STANDARD	Have you used an e-cigarette or other electronic “vaping” product in the past 30 days?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	SF9	Asked of all quitline participants who consented to follow-up and are included in the follow-up sample.
7	Follow-up	OPTIONAL	How many days did you use an e-cigarette or electronic “vaping” product in the last 30 days?	Record number of days (0-30) stated by caller Refused Not asked	OF10	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.
8	Follow-up	OPTIONAL	People use e-cigarette/e-vaping products for a variety of reasons, are you currently using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products to quit smoking?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	OF11	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.
9	Follow-up	OPTIONAL	Do you use an e-cigarettes/e-vaping product that contains nicotine?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	OF12	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.
10	Follow-up	OPTIONAL	Do you intend to completely quit using e-cigarettes/e-vaping products within the next 30 days?	Yes No Don’t Know Refused Not asked	OF13	This question would only be asked of quitline participants who reported they have used ENDS in past 30 days, as assessed in SF9.