

Nearly 15% of adults in England are current smokers and in 2016/17 over 48,000 hospital admissions were attributable to smoking. This represents 4% of all hospital admissions.

The annual cost to the NHS linked to tobacco use is estimated at £2.5 billion a year

Over a third of smokers each year will make a quit attempt and those who do so with specialist behavioural and pharmacological support will be up to four times more likely to successfully stop. Smoking cessation services have been shown to be amongst the most cost effective interventions provided within healthcare systems.

Current NICE guidance recommends health professionals should:

*“At every opportunity, ask people if they smoke and advise them to stop smoking in a way that is sensitive to their preferences and needs.”*

As pharmacy professionals we are ideally placed to Make Every Contact Count and provide specialist support to people who use our services.

On this page you can access learning activities and resources to support you develop and maintain the skills that you need to effectively support people to stop smoking. You will also find the template Declaration of Competence tool which you can use to demonstrate that you have reviewed your knowledge and completed relevant training to deliver smoking cessation services in Community Pharmacy.