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# Smokefree mums and bubs

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**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2018**

**AlfredHealth**



## Highlights

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**106,683**

Emergency presentations  
(Alfred and Sandringham)

**111,923**

episodes of inpatient care

**11,665**

elective surgeries performed

**96**

lung transplants

**+**

**20**

heart transplants

**9,016**

employees

**524**

volunteers



**AlfredHealth**

## Our transition to Totally Smokefree – May 2008

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### Rapid transition – within three months

#### Objectives:

To reduce exposure to passive smoke

To demonstrate public leadership

#### Actions:

Policy change

Communication strategies

Signage

#### Impact:

High awareness

Mixed compliance

Unchanged clinical practice



**Totally Smokefree at The Alfred Video**  
**Click below to view**

<https://www.alfredhealth.org.au/about/healthy-communities/smokefree-environment>

## A problem - A legal challenge

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# Smoking ban in hospitals: 'a violation of human rights'

Yahoo7 on July 21, 2011, 4:16 pm

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A Melbourne woman is taking legal action to fight for her right to smoke in hospital.

A Melbourne woman is taking legal action to fight for her right to smoke in hospital.

Self-confessed smoker Indigo Daya insists the Alfred Hospital's 100 per cent smoke-free policy is a breach of her human rights.

She is not exceptionally proud of her habit and refused to smoke on camera while being filmed for an exclusive report by 7News Melbourne because she does not want to promote it.

But she does want to light up on hospital grounds, and she's fighting the Alfred Hospital in VCAT to win that right.

She is arguing it is a human rights' violation for the hospital to ban mentally-ill people from smoking in courtyards when they are involuntarily committed.

"I think it creates an enhanced level of desperation in people who are already feeling desperate," Indigo said.

"That's not to say that quitting cigarettes is not a good thing, but there's a time and a place for everything. And when you're in the midst of a crisis, I would say that's not the right time."

Many patients are suicidal and Indigo says that is exactly how she felt.

A new approach- May 2012

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## **Refresh and relaunch**

### **Objectives:**

- To reduce exposure to passive smoke
- To demonstrate public leadership
- To facilitate smoking cessation (and manage temporary abstinence)
- To denormalise smoking (prevent uptake and reduce the risk of relapse)

### **Actions:**

- Refreshed communication strategies
- Clinical management of nicotine dependency – clinical guideline
- Education

### **Impact:**

- High awareness
- Increased compliance (but less of a focus on compliance!)
- Reduced smoking around campus perimeter
- Achievement of best practice clinical management

## Enablers

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### **Organisational leadership**

Problem that needs a solution

Communicate publicly and actively

How can we not...?

### **Clinical leadership**

Commit to best practice

Allocate resources – people and pharmaceutical

Support for patients AND staff who smoke

### **Education**

### **Continuous improvement**

Measure performance

Innovate – test new approaches

...and long term!

## Clinical Leadership

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### **Clearly defined clinical leadership**

Everyone's responsibility can be no one's responsibility

### **Integrated within existing practice**

Without major resource injection

### **Systematic**

Every person

Every time

Especially in those areas with greatest challenges

### **Measure performance**

### **Normalise practice**

**Emotionally compel health professionals ([starttheconversation.org.au](http://starttheconversation.org.au))**

# Clinical management of nicotine dependency

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## Clinical leadership by pharmacy

Pharmacist initiation of NRT

Supported by nurse initiated NRT

Within agreed treatment algorithm

## All forms of NRT available

DTC approval

Global supply- ward imprests

## Following discharge

## Stop Before the Op

## Smokefree outpatient clinic

## Good News for Smokers



**Support for Patients Video**  
**Click below to view**

<https://www.alfredhealth.org.au/about/healthy-communities/smokefree-environment/smoking-support-for-patients>

## Support for inpatients



### PATIENT SUPPORT

LED BY OUR PHARMACISTS, WE PROVIDE PATIENTS WITH SUPPORT BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER ADMISSION.



BRIEF **INTERVENTION ADVICE**, WHICH CAN INCLUDE STOP-SMOKING MEDICINES



OUR INPATIENTS ARE **4 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO QUIT** THAN THOSE WHO RECEIVE NO SUPPORT

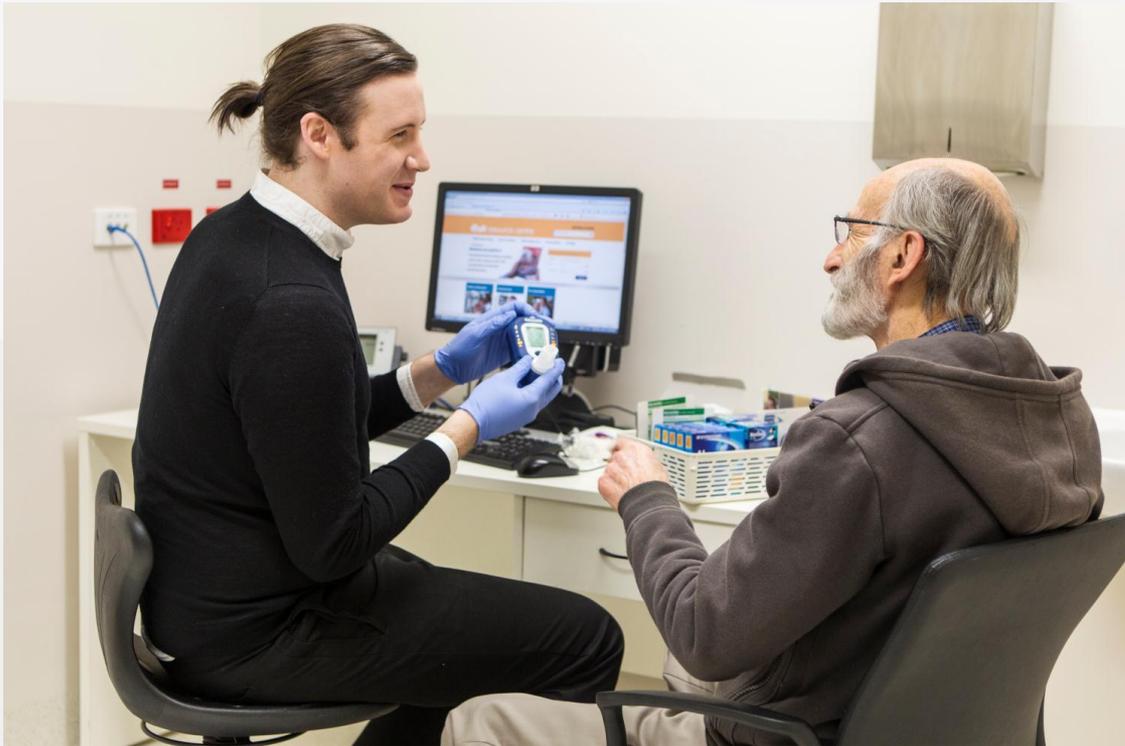


PROPORTION OF PATIENTS GIVEN ADVICE AND SUPPORT TO QUIT HAS RISEN FROM 14% TO **MORE THAN 95%**

95%

## Smokefree outpatient clinic

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OUR OUTPATIENT  
SMOKEFREE  
CLINIC  
CESSATION  
RATES ARE IN  
**THE ORDER**  
**OF 42%**

42%

## Stop Before the Op



**2x**  
**SMOKEFREE**

Patients were more than **2 times** as likely to be smokefree on the day of surgery



INTERVENTION: **23.3%** (42/181)  
VS  
CONTROL: **7.9%** (23/292)



**4x**  
**QUIT ATTEMPTS**

Patients were more than **4 times** as likely to make a quit attempt prior to surgery



INTERVENTION: **53.6%** (97/181)  
VS  
CONTROL: **11.0%** (32/292)



SUPPORTING STAFF WHO SMOKE TO QUIT

THE INITIATIVE

We developed a program to support staff who smoke to quit, following best practice.

STAFF HAD ACCESS TO:

**NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY** to help with cravings and withdrawal symptoms

**FACE-TO-FACE OR PHONE CONSULTATIONS** to give personalised advice

**GROUP CONSULTATIONS** for a support network through the quit journey

**EMAILS AND TEXTS** for ongoing support and motivation



WE ADVERTISED THE PROGRAM TO STAFF

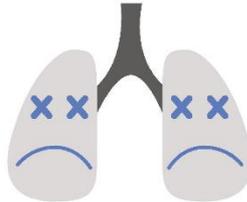
PEOPLE JOINED FOR DIFFERENT REASONS



"TO LIVE A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE"  
 "FOR MY LUNGS"  
 "FOR MY FAMILY"  
 "FEEL GOOD AND SMELL GOOD"  
 "SAVE MONEY"

TOBACCO SMOKING IS A LEADING PREVENTABLE CAUSE OF DEATH AND DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA.

BUT THE COSTS OF SMOKING GO BEYOND HEALTH.



OUR 2016 STAFF HEALTH CHECK TOLD US THAT APPROXIMATELY 4.5% OF OUR 8000+ EMPLOYEES SMOKE

AND IT WORKED.

ALMOST 50% OF STAFF WHO JOINED THE PROGRAM REMAIN SMOKEFREE



THAT IMPACTS

OUR STAFF

by affecting their health and wellbeing, as well as their hip pocket



OUR PATIENTS

because healthy staff provide better care



US, AS EMPLOYERS

by costing an estimated **\$3594** usd per person annually from absenteeism and loss of productivity due to smoking breaks<sup>1</sup>



WHAT PEOPLE SAID

"YOU BOUNCE OFF EACH OTHER'S MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS."

"I DON'T MISS ANYTHING. I CAN STILL GO OUT WITH MY BUDDIES."

"I AM MORE PRODUCTIVE AT WORK NOW."

"GIVING UP SMOKING TURNED OUT TO BE LESS DIFFICULT THAN I IMAGINED."

FLOW-ON EFFECTS

When staff quit smoking, it not only improves their health and wellbeing and productivity at work, it also makes talking to patients about quitting easier.

ALFRED HEALTH VALUES THE HEALTH OF ITS STAFF. SO, WE WANTED TO SUPPORT STAFF WHO SMOKE TO QUIT...

...BUT QUITTING ISN'T EASY!

RELAPSE IS COMMON AND SOCIAL NETWORKS PLAY A BIG PART.

TO GIVE OUR STAFF THE BEST CHANCE AT QUITTING, WE CONSULTED WITH STAFF AND LOOKED AT THE EVIDENCE TO SEE WHAT WORKS.



COMMITTED TO BEING SMOKEFREE

WE'VE MADE OUR HOSPITAL A TOTALLY SMOKEFREE ENVIRONMENT.

WE'RE PROVIDING BEST-PRACTICE SUPPORT FOR OUR STAFF WHO SMOKE TO QUIT.

WE'RE PROVIDING BEST-PRACTICE SUPPORT FOR OUR PATIENTS TO QUIT SMOKING BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER ADMISSION.



1. Berman, 2014.

**Support for Staff**  
**Click below to view**

<https://www.alfredhealth.org.au/about/healthy-communities/smokefree-environment/smoking-support-for-staff>

Perimeter based smoking



SINCE WE STARTED SUPPORTING PATIENTS TO QUIT:



AVERAGE NO. OF PATIENTS OBSERVED SMOKING AROUND THE PERIMETER EACH DAY



Continuous improvement

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**Definition of “success”**

Beyond compliance

Evidence of problems does not mean a policy is ‘inappropriate or a failure’

**Consistency**

Between staff and between departments

Making an exception can be a cause of aggression

**Inequalities**

In smoking AND quitting

**Clinical leadership**

Don’t let it be an OHS issue only

**Influence clinical practice**

A little bit of evidence

Plenty of emotion

**start the  
conversation**

## Smoking in pregnancy

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### **Smoking in pregnancy is the most important preventable risk factor for poor maternal and infant health outcomes**

- 2014- 11% pregnant women smoked at some point during their pregnancy (AIHW 2014)
- Increased risks of miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity, low birth weight, perinatal morbidity and mortality
- Children of smoking mothers are more likely to start smoking themselves (Leonardi-Bee et al. 2011)
- Rates significantly higher in high priority populations such as ATSI, socially disadvantaged women
- The more cigarettes smoked, the greater the risk of complications and birth weight.

## Quitting in pregnancy

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- **Quitting during the first trimester**
  - Reduce risk of birth complications
  - Lower risk of prematurity
  - Same chance of healthy birth weight
  - Reduce perinatal morbidity and mortality
- **Quitting at any time during the pregnancy produces health benefits**
- **Cutting down not sufficient**
  - Compensatory smoking- tend to smoke the remaining cigarettes harder by taking more and larger puffs, and holding each puff longer.

## Barriers to quitting in pregnancy

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- **Fast nicotine metabolism (CYP2A6)**
  - Elimination of nicotine affects the rate at which the person who smokes must 'top up' their nicotine
- **Mental illness**
- **Other substance use**
- **Stress**
- **Behavioural and psychological dependence**
- **Having a partner who smokes or living with smokers**
- **Concerns about weight gain**

Okay so what can we do?



## Importance of brief intervention

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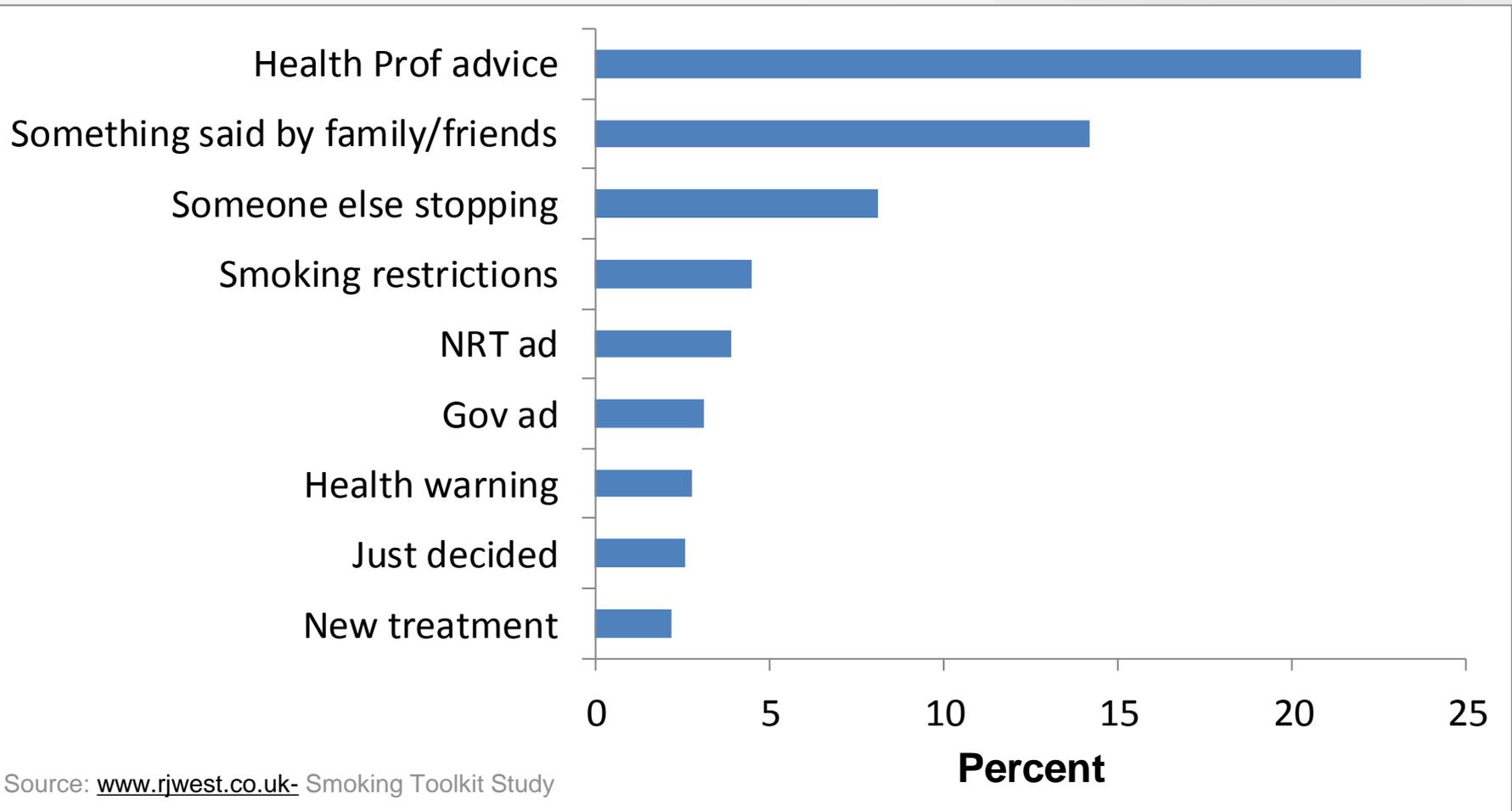


Brief advice from a healthcare professional prompts people to quit

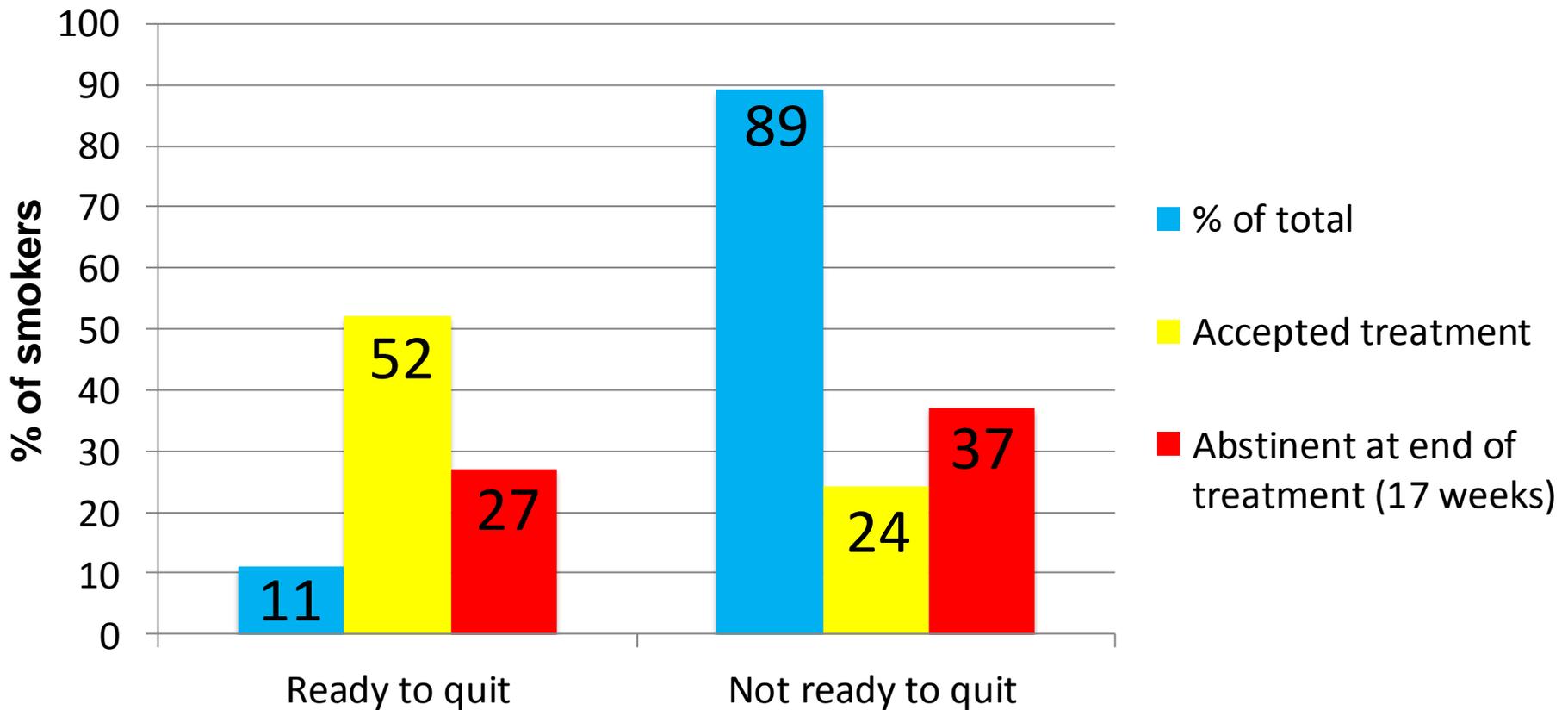
NNT 1 in 33

Increases long-term abstinence rates by 1-3 percentage points (above unassisted quit rates, which are around 2-3%)

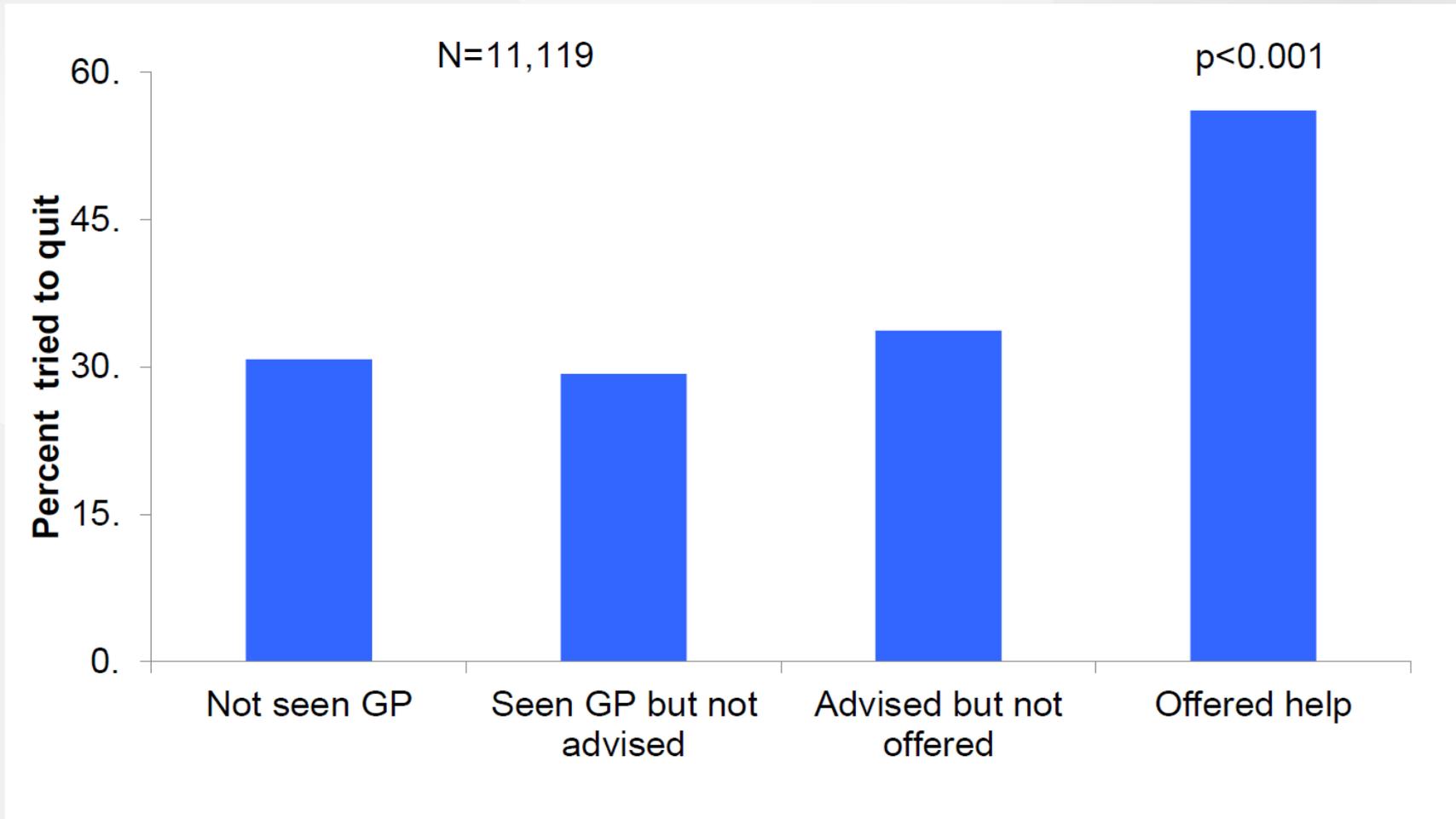
Health professional advice is the greatest trigger



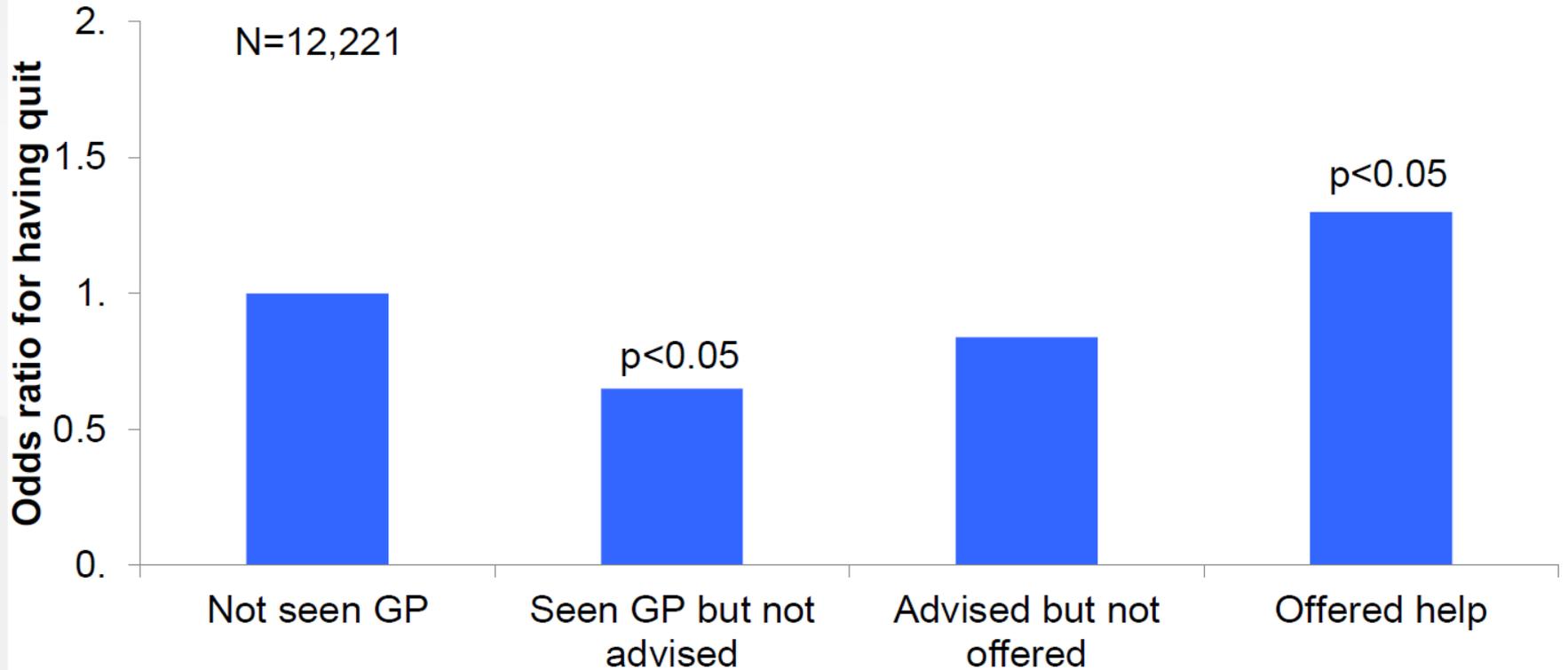
Stage of change does not matter



And it's the offer of support that's important



Not advising may be worse than useless



Results of multiple logistic regression adjusting for age, sex and social grade

## Identifying pregnant women who smoke

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- **Pregnant women should be assessed for possible smoking at every opportunity (at least once each trimester)**
  - Ensure that stopping smoking is deemed important throughout the pregnancy, not just the initial visit
- **Some women find it difficult to admit they smoke due to social stigma**
- **Disclosure of smoking can be increased by up to 40% through multiple choice questions rather than yes/no question (Fiore et al. 2008, Mullen et al. 1991)**

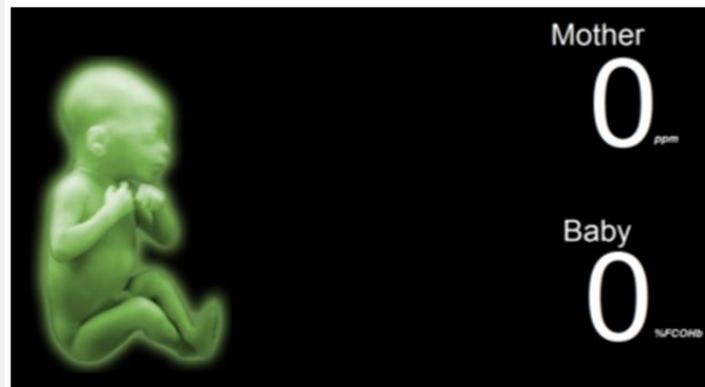
Which statement best describes you now?

  - a. I smoke regularly now- about the same as before I found out I was pregnant
  - b. I smoke regularly now- but more than before I found out I was pregnant
  - c. I smoke some now, but I have cut down since I got pregnant
  - d. I stopped smoking after I found out I was pregnant, and I am not smoking now
  - e. I stopped smoking before I found out I was pregnant, and I am not smoking now
  - f. I have never smoked

## Role of carbon monoxide monitoring

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- **Hand-held carboxymeter**
  - Immediate and non invasive biochemical method
  - Measures expired carbon monoxide
  - Detect active and passive smoking
  - Foetal CO reading in both ppm and %FCOHb
  - Traffic light system to provide visual motivation to the mum to be to quit smoking



Why is it so hard to quit?

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**People who smoke aren't weak nor are they simply making a bad lifestyle choice.**

**Smoking is a complex process made up of:**

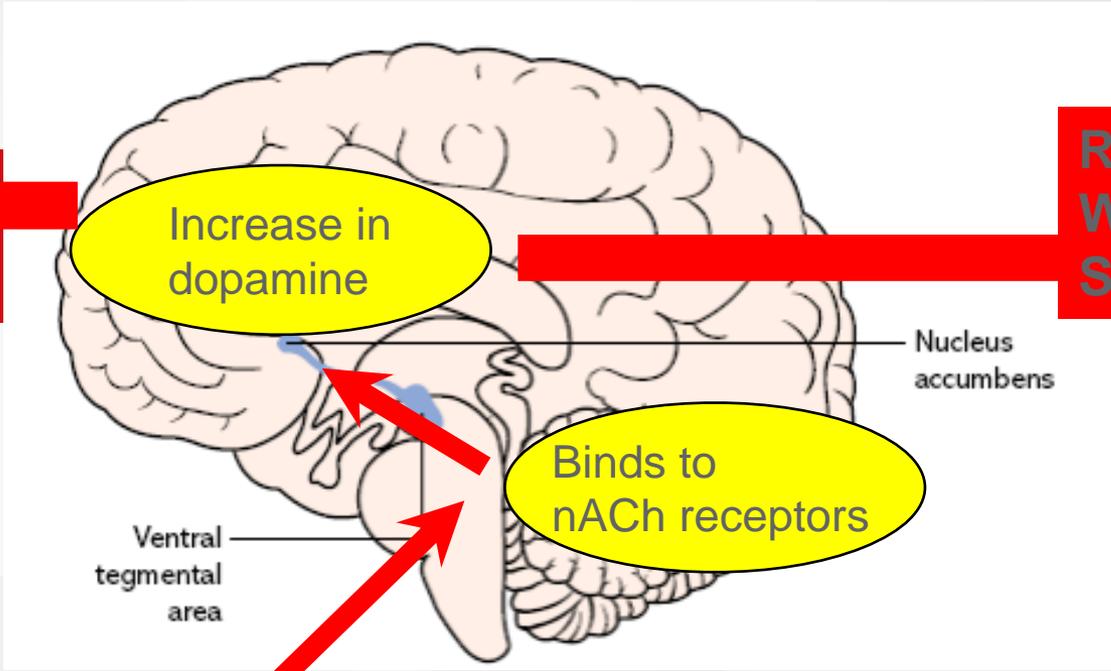
- Nicotine dependence
- Behavioural connections
- Psychological connections

## Nicotine Dependence

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- **Chronic medical condition with multiple cycles of relapse and remission**
  - Relapsed smokers need to be re-engaged and assisted through repeated quit attempts
- **Under recognised by health professionals**
- **Assessment is important**

**Positive  
Reinforcement**



**Relief of  
Withdrawal  
Symptoms**

**Negative  
Reinforcement**

## Assessing nicotine dependency during pregnancy

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**Many women reduce their CPD; measures may be less effective**

**Consider using strengths of urges to smoke and frequency of urges to smoke scales**

- SUTS- 'in general, how strong have the urges to smoke been in the past 24 hours?'
  - *Slight, moderate, strong, very strong, extremely strong*
- FUTS- 'how much of the time have you felt an urge to smoke in the past 24 hours?'
  - *Not at all, a little of the time, some of the time, a lot of the time, almost all of the time, all of the time.*

## Nicotine withdrawal syndrome

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### **Symptoms begin within hours of quitting/enforced abstinence**

- Dizziness, insomnia, restlessness, difficulty concentrating, irritability, increase appetite, mood changes

### **Duration and severity of symptoms are highly variable among individuals**

- Generally worst in first 24-48 hours

### **Nicotine withdrawal symptoms are usually alleviated in 2-4 weeks**

## Other mechanisms underlying smoking

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### **Psychological connection**

- smoking is related to how clients feel, their moods and emotions
- commonly draw a connection between smoking and stress relief, feelings of comfort and relaxation

### **Behavioural connections**

- behaviours that are closely linked to their smoking
- connections tend to be strong and have built up over many years

## Current state

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- **Survey of Australian GPs and obstetricians, 25% never prescribe NRT (Bar-Zeev et al. 2017)**
- **Similar findings in the UK, NZ and US (Herbert et al. 2005, Glover et al. 2008, Price et al. 2008)**
- **Barriers**
  - Low confidence in ability to prescribe
  - Safety concerns

## 1 Summary of current international guidelines for the use of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) during pregnancy

Organisation, year updated	Key points
RACGP, 2014 <sup>4</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRT may be considered if quit attempts are unsuccessful and the woman is motivated to quit</li> <li>• The risks and benefits need to be explained to the woman</li> <li>• Oral NRT is the first line option, but larger doses or even combination NRT may be needed</li> </ul>
RANZCOG, 2014 <sup>14</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insufficient evidence to routinely recommend NRT use in pregnancy</li> <li>• If the woman is a heavy smoker and unsuccessful in quitting with counselling alone, NRT may reduce the risk to the fetus</li> </ul>
NICE, 2010 (update to be released March 2018) <sup>11</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use NRT only in women who are unsuccessful in quitting smoking without medication</li> <li>• Only prescribe NRT once women stop smoking</li> <li>• Only prescribe 2 weeks of NRT</li> <li>• Only give subsequent prescription if the woman is still not smoking</li> </ul>
New Zealand Ministry of Health, 2014 <sup>12</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trials have not shown NRT to be effective in pregnancy</li> <li>• NRT is safer than smoking</li> <li>• Women may use NRT in pregnancy once they have been advised of the risks and benefits</li> </ul>
CAN-ADAPTT, 2011 <sup>13</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited evidence that NRT is harmful in pregnancy</li> <li>• Some evidence that NRT may be effective</li> <li>• Benefits of NRT seem to outweigh potential risks</li> <li>• NRT should be considered if counselling has been ineffective</li> <li>• Oral NRT is preferred after a risk–benefit analysis</li> </ul>
USPSTF, 2015 <sup>15</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current evidence is insufficient to assess the use of NRT in pregnancy</li> </ul>
ACOG, 2015 <sup>16</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRT use in pregnancy has not been sufficiently evaluated to determine safety or efficacy</li> <li>• NRT should only be used under supervision, after a risk–benefit analysis, and only with a clear resolve of the woman to quit smoking</li> </ul>
WHO, 2013 <sup>17</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cannot make a recommendation on NRT use during pregnancy</li> </ul>

ACOG = American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. CAN-ADAPTT = Canadian Action Network for the Advancement, Dissemination and Adoption of Practice-informed Tobacco Treatment. NICE = National Institute for Health and Care Excellence. RACGP = Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. RANZCOG = Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. USPSTF = United States Preventive Services Task Force. WHO = World Health Organization. ♦

## Nicotine replacement therapy

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- **Reduces motivation to smoke and the severity of withdrawal symptoms**
- **Six forms of NRT available in Australia**
  - Transdermal- patches
  - Intermittent- gum, lozenge, mini-lozenge, mouthspray, inhalator
- **Minimal addictive potential (Zwar et al. 2006)**
- **No serious side effects, usually minor and formulation related**
- **Does not produce dramatic surges in blood levels**
- **No evidence for weaning/tapering dose (Stead et al. 2012)**

## Safety and efficacy NRT

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### **Evidence is limited, small numbers of studies and participants**

**Effect on maternal BP, pulse, fetal HR, uterine and umbilical artery resistance index similar to continued smoking** (Oncken et al. 2009, Oncken et al. 1997)

### **Animal studies have found nicotine to be harmful for the fetus**

- Especially for brain and lung development (England et al. 2017)
- Unsure how this can be transferred to humans (Shanks et al. 2009)

### **Observational studies**

- UK population-based cohort; no significant increased risk major congenital anomalies with NRT use (Dhalwani et al. 2015)
- Danish population-based cohort; no significant changes in mean birth weight (one form of NRT), change in mean birth weight but not significant (combination NRT) (Lassen et al. 2010)
- UK cohort study; combination NRT more effective. Single form NRT no effect (Brose et al. 2013)

## Safety and efficacy NRT

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### **Randomised controlled trials**

•Cochrane meta-analysis included 8 RCTs (Coleman et al. 2015)- five double blinded placebo controlled, three non-placebo controlled

- NRT increased the smoking cessation rate by 40% (8 studies)
- No significant differences in safety outcomes (risk of miscarriage or spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, NICU admissions, neonatal death) (4 studies)
- No significant differences congenital anomalies, caesarean delivery (2 studies)
- No significant differences pre-term birth (6 studies)

## Limitations

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**Almost all trials use a fixed NRT dose regardless of cigarettes per day and dependency**

- Higher metabolism of nicotine during pregnancy- increased by up to 60% (Dempsey et al. 2002)

**Low adherence to NRT**

**No studies titrated according to clinical response**

## The Women's Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide

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- **NRT**
  - Limited safety information available
  - Non-pharmacological strategies should be employed if possible
  - May be considered if failed to quit smoking using non-pharmacological strategies
  - Use the lowest effective dose that controls withdrawal symptoms and cravings
  - Intermittent forms of NRT preferred
- **Varenicline (Champix®)**
  - Limited information available
  - Consider an alternative
- **Bupropion (Zyban®)**
  - Limited information available
  - Consider an alternative

## Supporting smoking cessation during pregnancy

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### Key points

- Non pharmacological strategies should be trialled if possible
- Use the lowest possible dose of NRT that is effective- ideally intermittent products initially
- Regular use of intermittent NRT during the day as a substitute for cigarettes
- Patches are an option (esp. if nauseated); 16 hour use
- Duration of use- at least 12 weeks, can be longer if needed to prevent relapse
- Regular reviews
- Behavioural support essential
- Use of carbon monoxide monitoring
- Post-partum relapse

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