

Board of Pharmacy  
Department of Consumer Affairs

**ORDER OF ADOPTION**

Adopt §1746.2 of Article 5 of division 17 of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations to read as follows:

**§1746.2 Protocol for Pharmacists Furnishing Nicotine Replacement Products**

(a) A pharmacist furnishing nicotine replacement products pursuant to Section 4052.9 of the Business and Professions Code shall follow the protocol specified in subdivision (b) of this section.

(b) Protocol for Pharmacists Furnishing Nicotine Replacement Products

(1) Authority: section 4052.9(a) of the California Business and Professions Code authorizes a pharmacist to furnish nicotine replacement products approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration for use by prescription only in accordance with a protocol approved by the California State Board of Pharmacy and the Medical Board of California. Use of the protocol in this section satisfies that requirement.

(2) Purpose: To provide timely access to nicotine replacement products and to ensure that the patient receives information to appropriately initiate smoking cessation medication therapy.

(3) Explanation of Products Covered: Prescription nicotine replacement products approved by the federal Food and Drug Administration and provided by a pharmacist for smoking cessation are covered under this protocol. Pharmacists may continue to provide over-the-counter smoking cessation products without use of this protocol.

(4) Procedure: When a patient requests nicotine replacement therapy or other smoking cessation medication, or when a pharmacist in his or her professional judgment decides to initiate smoking cessation treatment and counseling, the pharmacist shall complete the following steps:

(A) Review the patient's current tobacco use and past quit attempts.

(B) Ask the patient the following screening questions:

- (i) Are you pregnant or plan to become pregnant? (If yes, do not furnish and refer to an appropriate health care provider)
- (ii) Have you had a heart attack within the last 2 weeks? (If yes, furnish with caution and refer to an appropriate health care provider)
- (iii) Do you have any history of heart palpitations, irregular heartbeats, or have you been diagnosed with a serious arrhythmia? (If yes, furnish with caution and refer to an appropriate health care provider)
- (iv) Do you currently experience frequent chest pain or have you been diagnosed with unstable angina? (If yes, furnish with caution and refer to an appropriate health care provider)
- (v) Do you have any history of allergic rhinitis (e.g., nasal allergies)? (If yes, avoid nasal spray)

(vi) Have you been diagnosed with temporal mandibular joint (TMJ) dysfunction? (If yes, avoid nicotine gum)

These screening questions shall be made available in alternate languages for patients whose primary language is not English.

(C) When a nicotine replacement product is furnished:

(i) The pharmacist shall review the instructions for use with every patient using a nicotine replacement product.

(ii) Pharmacists should recommend the patient seek additional assistance for behavior change, including but not limited to the California Smokers' Helpline (1-800-NO-BUTTS), web-based programs (e.g., <http://smokefree.gov>), apps, and local cessation programs.

(D) The pharmacist shall answer any questions the patient may have regarding smoking cessation therapy and/or nicotine replacement products.

(5) Product Selection: The pharmacist, in consultation with the patient, may select any nicotine replacement product (alone or in combination) from the list of therapies specified in this protocol in the Table "Nicotine Replacement Therapy Medications for Smoking Cessation." This list shall be kept current and maintained in the pharmacy or health care facility, and shall be available on the Board of Pharmacy's website.

Generic equivalent products may be furnished.

(6) Notifications: The pharmacist shall notify the patient's primary care provider of any prescription drug(s) and/or device(s) furnished to the patient, or enter the appropriate information in a patient record system shared with the primary care provider, as permitted by that primary care provider. If the patient does not have a primary care provider, or is unable to provide contact information for his or her primary care provider, the pharmacist shall provide the patient with a written record of the prescription drug(s) and/or device(s) furnished and advise the patient to consult an appropriate health care provider of the patient's choice.

(7) Documentation: Each nicotine replacement product provided for smoking cessation and furnished by a pharmacist pursuant to this protocol shall be documented in a patient medication record and securely stored within the originating pharmacy or health care facility for a period of at least three years from the date of dispense. A patient medication record shall be maintained in an automated data processing or manual record mode such that the required information under title 16, sections 1717 and 1707.1 of the California Code of Regulations is readily retrievable during the pharmacy or facility's normal operating hours.

(8) Training: Prior to furnishing prescription nicotine replacement products, pharmacists who participate in this protocol must have completed a minimum of two hours of an approved continuing education program specific to smoking cessation therapy and nicotine replacement therapy, or an equivalent curriculum-based training program completed within the last two years in an accredited California school of pharmacy.

Additionally, pharmacists who participate in this protocol must complete ongoing continuing education focused on smoking cessation therapy from an approved provider once every two years.

(9) Patient Privacy: All pharmacists furnishing nicotine replacement products in a pharmacy or health care facility shall operate under the pharmacy's or facility's policies and procedures to ensure that patient confidentiality and privacy are maintained.

(10) Nicotine Replacement Therapy Medications for Smoking Cessation



## NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY MEDICATIONS FOR SMOKING CESSATION

NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY (NRT) FORMULATIONS USED AS MONOTHERAPY						COMBINATION NRT
GUM	LOZENGE	PATCH	NASAL SPRAY	INHALER		
<b>PRODUCT</b>	Nicorette <sup>1</sup> , Generic OTC 2 mg, 4 mg original, cinnamon, fruit, mint	Nicorette Lozenge, <sup>1</sup> Nicorette Mini Lozenge, <sup>1</sup> Generic OTC 2 mg, 4 mg cherry, mint	NicoDerm CQ <sup>1</sup> , Generic OTC (NicoDerm CQ, generic) Rx (generic) 7 mg, 14 mg, 21 mg (24-hour release)	Nicotrol NS <sup>2</sup> Rx Metered spray 0.5 mg nicotine in 50 mL aqueous nicotine solution	Nicotrol Inhaler <sup>2</sup> Rx 10 mg cartridge delivers 4 mg inhaled nicotine vapor	Combinations with demonstrated efficacy Nicotine patch + nicotine gum Nicotine patch + nicotine lozenge Nicotine patch + nicotine nasal spray Nicotine patch + nicotine oral inhaler
<b>PRECAUTIONS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent (<math>\leq 2</math> weeks) myocardial infarction</li> <li>▪ Serious underlying arrhythmias</li> <li>▪ Serious or worsening angina pectoris</li> <li>▪ Temporomandibular joint disease</li> <li>▪ Pregnancy<sup>3</sup> and breastfeeding</li> <li>▪ Adolescents (<math>&lt;18</math> years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent (<math>\leq 2</math> weeks) myocardial infarction</li> <li>▪ Serious underlying arrhythmias</li> <li>▪ Serious or worsening angina pectoris</li> <li>▪ Pregnancy<sup>3</sup> and breastfeeding</li> <li>▪ Adolescents (<math>&lt;18</math> years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent (<math>\leq 2</math> weeks) myocardial infarction</li> <li>▪ Serious underlying arrhythmias</li> <li>▪ Serious or worsening angina pectoris</li> <li>▪ Pregnancy<sup>3</sup> (Rx formulations, category D) and breastfeeding</li> <li>▪ Adolescents (<math>&lt;18</math> years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent (<math>\leq 2</math> weeks) myocardial infarction</li> <li>▪ Serious underlying arrhythmias</li> <li>▪ Serious or worsening angina pectoris</li> <li>▪ Underlying chronic nasal disorders (rhinitis, nasal polyps, sinusitis)</li> <li>▪ Severe reactive airway disease</li> <li>▪ Pregnancy<sup>3</sup> (category D) and breastfeeding</li> <li>▪ Adolescents (<math>&lt;18</math> years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recent (<math>\leq 2</math> weeks) myocardial infarction</li> <li>▪ Serious underlying arrhythmias</li> <li>▪ Serious or worsening angina pectoris</li> <li>▪ Bronchospastic disease</li> <li>▪ Pregnancy<sup>3</sup> (category D) and breastfeeding</li> <li>▪ Adolescents (<math>&lt;18</math> years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See precautions for individual agents</li> </ul>
<b>DOSING</b>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> cigarette <math>\leq 30</math> minutes after waking: 4 mg</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> cigarette <math>&gt;30</math> minutes after waking: 2 mg</p> <p>Weeks 1–6: 1 piece q 1–2 hours</p> <p>Weeks 7–9: 1 piece q 2–4 hours</p> <p>Weeks 10–12: 1 piece q 4–8 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximum, 24 pieces/day</li> <li>▪ Chew each piece slowly</li> <li>▪ Park between cheek and gum when peppery or tingling sensation appears (~15–30 chews)</li> <li>▪ Resume chewing when tingle fades</li> <li>▪ Repeat chew/park steps until most of the nicotine is gone (tingle does not return; generally 30 min)</li> <li>▪ Park in different areas of mouth</li> <li>▪ No food or beverages 15 minutes before or during use</li> <li>▪ Duration: up to 12 weeks</li> </ul>	<p>1<sup>st</sup> cigarette <math>\leq 30</math> minutes after waking: 4 mg</p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> cigarette <math>&gt;30</math> minutes after waking: 2 mg</p> <p>Weeks 1–6: 1 lozenge q 1–2 hours</p> <p>Weeks 7–9: 1 lozenge q 2–4 hours</p> <p>Weeks 10–12: 1 lozenge q 4–8 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximum, 20 lozenges/day</li> <li>▪ Allow to dissolve slowly (20–30 minutes for standard; 10 minutes for mini)</li> <li>▪ Nicotine release may cause a warm, tingling sensation</li> <li>▪ Do not chew or swallow</li> <li>▪ Occasionally rotate to different areas of the mouth</li> <li>▪ No food or beverages 15 minutes before or during use</li> <li>▪ Duration: up to 12 weeks</li> </ul>	<p><u><math>&gt;10</math> cigarettes/day:</u> 21 mg/day x 4–6 weeks 14 mg/day x 2 weeks 7 mg/day x 2 weeks</p> <p><u><math>\leq 10</math> cigarettes/day:</u> 14 mg/day x 6 weeks 7 mg/day x 2 weeks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May wear patch for 16 hours if patient experiences sleep disturbances (remove at bedtime)</li> <li>▪ Duration: 8–10 weeks</li> </ul>	<p>1–2 doses/hour (8–40 doses/day) One dose = 2 sprays (one in each nostril); each spray delivers 0.5 mg of nicotine to the nasal mucosa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maximum                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 5 doses/hour or</li> <li>– 40 doses/day</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ For best results, initially use at least 8 doses/day</li> <li>▪ Do not sniff, swallow, or inhale through the nose as the spray is being administered</li> <li>▪ Duration: 3–6 months</li> </ul>	<p>6–16 cartridges/day Individualize dosing; initially use 1 cartridge q 1–2 hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best effects with continuous puffing for 20 minutes</li> <li>▪ Initially use at least 6 cartridges/day</li> <li>▪ Nicotine in cartridge is depleted after 20 minutes of active puffing</li> <li>▪ Inhale into back of throat or puff in short breaths</li> <li>▪ Do NOT inhale into the lungs (like a cigarette) but “puff” as if lighting a pipe</li> <li>▪ Open cartridge retains potency for 24 hours</li> <li>▪ No food or beverages 15 minutes before or during use</li> <li>▪ Duration: 3–6 months</li> </ul>	<p><u>Reserve for patients smoking <math>\geq 10</math> cigarettes/day:</u></p> <p><b>Long-acting NRT:</b> to prevent onset of severe withdrawal symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Nicotine patch</b> 21 mg/day x 4–6 weeks 14 mg/day x 2 weeks 7 mg/day x 2 weeks</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>PLUS</b></p> <p><b>Short-acting NRT:</b> used as needed to control breakthrough withdrawal symptoms and situational urges for tobacco</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Nicotine gum (2 mg)</b> 1 piece q 1–2 hours as needed OR</li> <li>▪ <b>Nicotine lozenge (2 mg)</b> 1 lozenge q 1–2 hours as needed OR</li> <li>▪ <b>Nicotine nasal spray</b> 1 spray in each nostril q 1–2 hours as needed OR</li> <li>▪ <b>Nicotine inhaler</b> 1 cartridge q 1–2 hours as needed</li> </ul>

NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY (NRT) FORMULATIONS USED AS MONOTHERAPY						COMBINATION NRT
GUM	LOZENGE	PATCH	NASAL SPRAY	INHALER		
<b>ADVERSE EFFECTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mouth/jaw soreness</li> <li>▪ Hiccups</li> <li>▪ Dyspepsia</li> <li>▪ Hypersalivation</li> <li>▪ Effects associated with incorrect chewing technique:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Lightheadedness</li> <li>– Nausea/vomiting</li> <li>– Throat and mouth irritation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nausea</li> <li>▪ Hiccups</li> <li>▪ Cough</li> <li>▪ Heartburn</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Flatulence</li> <li>▪ Insomnia</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Local skin reactions (erythema, pruritus, burning)</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Sleep disturbances (insomnia, abnormal/vivid dreams); associated with nocturnal nicotine absorption</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Nasal and/or throat irritation (hot, peppery, or burning sensation)</li> <li>▪ Rhinitis</li> <li>▪ Tearing</li> <li>▪ Sneezing</li> <li>▪ Cough</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mouth and/or throat irritation</li> <li>▪ Cough</li> <li>▪ Headache</li> <li>▪ Rhinitis</li> <li>▪ Dyspepsia</li> <li>▪ Hiccups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ See adverse effects listed for individual agents</li> </ul>
<b>ADVANTAGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Might serve as an oral substitute for tobacco</li> <li>▪ Might delay weight gain</li> <li>▪ Can be titrated to manage withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>▪ Can be used in combination with other agents to manage situational urges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Might serve as an oral substitute for tobacco</li> <li>▪ Might delay weight gain</li> <li>▪ Can be titrated to manage withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>▪ Can be used in combination with other agents to manage situational urges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Once daily dosing associated with fewer adherence problems</li> <li>▪ Of all NRT products, its use is least obvious to others</li> <li>▪ Can be used in combination with other agents; delivers consistent nicotine levels over 24 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Can be titrated to rapidly manage withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>▪ Can be used in combination with other agents to manage situational urges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Might serve as an oral substitute for tobacco</li> <li>▪ Can be titrated to manage withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>▪ Mimics hand-to-mouth ritual of smoking</li> <li>▪ Can be used in combination with other agents to manage situational urges</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provides consistent nicotine levels over 24 hours and patients can titrate therapy to manage withdrawal symptoms and situational urges for tobacco</li> <li>▪ Research studies suggest combination therapy provides a small, but meaningful increase in success rates compared to single agent NRT</li> <li>▪ Attractive option for patients who have previously failed treatment with monotherapy</li> <li>▪ See advantages listed for individual agents</li> </ul>
<b>DISADVANTAGES</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for frequent dosing can compromise adherence</li> <li>▪ Might be problematic for patients with significant dental work</li> <li>▪ Proper chewing technique is necessary for effectiveness and to minimize adverse effects</li> <li>▪ Gum chewing might not be acceptable or desirable for some patients</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for frequent dosing can compromise adherence</li> <li>▪ Gastrointestinal side effects (nausea, hiccups, heartburn) might be bothersome</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When used as monotherapy, cannot be titrated to acutely manage withdrawal symptoms</li> <li>▪ Not recommended for use by patients with dermatologic conditions (e.g., psoriasis, eczema, atopic dermatitis)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for frequent dosing can compromise adherence</li> <li>▪ Nasal administration might not be acceptable or desirable for some patients; nasal irritation often problematic</li> <li>▪ Not recommended for use by patients with chronic nasal disorders or severe reactive airway disease</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Need for frequent dosing can compromise adherence</li> <li>▪ Cartridges might be less effective in cold environments (<math>\leq 60^{\circ}\text{F}</math>)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Combination therapy is more costly than monotherapy</li> <li>▪ See disadvantages listed for individual agents</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Marketed by GlaxoSmithKline.

<sup>2</sup> Marketed by Pfizer.

<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Clinical Practice Guideline states that pregnant smokers should be encouraged to quit without medication based on insufficient evidence of effectiveness and theoretical concerns with safety. Pregnant smokers should be offered behavioral counseling interventions that exceed minimal advice to quit.

Abbreviations: NRT, nicotine replacement therapy; OTC, over-the-counter (non-prescription product); Rx, prescription product.

**For complete prescribing information, please refer to the manufacturers' package inserts.**

Copyright © 1999–2015 The Regents of the University of California. All rights reserved. Updated January 26, 2015.

**Authority: Sections 4005, 4052(a)(10) and 4052.9, Business and Professions Code. Reference: Sections 4052(a)(10) and §4052.9, Business and Professions Code.**