



**Policy Statement;** Prescribing of nicotine replacement therapy is supported only when used as part of a formal smoking cessation programme.

Mid-Essex Clinical Commissioning Group supports the prescribing of nicotine replacement therapy **only when used as part of a formal smoking cessation programme.**

Mid Essex Clinical Commissioning Group supports NICE public health guidance (PH45)<sup>1</sup> Tobacco: harm-reduction approaches to smoking and NICE public health guidance [PH48]<sup>2</sup> Smoking cessation in secondary care: acute, maternity and mental health services. Prescribing of any Nicotine Replacement Therapies (NRT) should however be in line with local policy.

Anyone currently managed by local smoking cessation services are able to receive licensed NRT products free of charge along with on-going support. Patients not receiving support would however need to purchase NRT from any of the available outlets for these products. General Practitioners are not expected to prescribe these products for their patients and if asked should either encourage self-care or refer to one of the locally commissioned smoking cessation services.

Providers commissioned to provide services on behalf of Mid-Essex CCG are reminded that they are required to follow the Mid-Essex CCG formulary and prescribing guidance as detailed in their contract (Medicines Management Service Specification).

See Mid-Essex CCG website – Medicines optimisation page for all prescribing guidance:

<https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH45>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/PH48>

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Previous version	Key Changes
June 2013	Format and reference links to more recent NICE guidance