

Standard of Care

Name of Organization: _____

Standard of Care for Treatment of Tobacco Dependence

Effective Date: _____

Reviewed & Approved By: _____

In Concurrence With Public Health Service Guidelines for Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence.

Purpose:

To reduce the overall incidence of tobacco use by offering tobacco dependence treatment for all patients who use tobacco, thereby, promoting better health and decreasing the likelihood of tobacco-related illnesses or conditions.

Standard of Care Criteria:

All patients will be screened for tobacco use at every visit. Patients identified as current tobacco users will be advised to stop, will be offered education and counseling on smoking cessation and pharmacotherapy recommended unless contra indicated. Such education and counseling may be provided by:

1. A health care professional during the office visit
2. Referral /faxed referral to the New York State Smokers' Quitline
3. The provision of educational/self help materials

For each patient visit, the patient record will clearly indicate that the patient was asked about tobacco use, was advised to quit and was offered assistance in quitting.

Procedure:

1. At an initial office visit or interval assessment, patients will be asked to self-report tobacco use.
2. Re-assessment at subsequent visits is indicated in the vital signs (sticker, stamp, section, etc.) of the progress note and is recorded by the nurse or medical assistant gathering other vital signs.
3. If a patient responds positively, the provider will advise the patient to stop using tobacco and offer assistance by giving information on tobacco dependence treatment options, including medications and referral to other programs. The specific assistance given will be recorded in the progress note.



