



December 2010

METHADONE SUPPLIES:

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND INSTALMENT PRESCRIPTIONS FOR CDs: There are more "take-home" doses for methadone, buprenorphine and other CDs than usual during Christmas and New Year. This year, the public holidays fall on the Monday and Tuesday of both weeks, so some pharmacies could be closed for up to four days. Controlled drug prescriptions for instalment dispensing must state the dose plus the amount to be supplied per instalment and the interval between instalments. Directions for take home instalments must be unambiguous. The wording approved by the Home Office to cover supplies when pharmacies are closed is included on the stamps supplied to practices. Without this pharmacies can only supply exactly in accordance with the prescription or none at all if legal requirements are not observed.

Please remind patients of the importance of safe storage of methadone, buprenorphine and other CDs and the risks of overdose when taken with alcohol and other illicit or prescribed drugs. Medicines should be kept out of reach and out of sight of children, locked away if possible.

Naloxone and overdose awareness training sessions are held monthly within the Community Addiction Teams. Patients should be encouraged to contact their local Addiction Service or the Glasgow Drug Crisis Centre in order to access training and obtain supplies of naloxone.

The pharmacy team at Glasgow Addictions Services can be contacted on 0141 276 6600 for further help and advice.

EGG ALLERGY:

GP's are often approached by parents and patients asking advice about egg allergy and vaccination. True egg allergy (i.e. anaphylaxis) is relatively rare and in most cases vaccination can still be considered after a risk assessment. The British Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) have recently published guidelines on the diagnosis and management of egg allergy available at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2222.2010.03557.x/pdf> or via their website www.bsaci.org

They also provide useful information detailing the egg protein content of some common foods. This is a useful resource when considering vaccinations and should be used along with the Department of Health (DOH) [Green Book](#) and the [GGC Immunisation Resource Pack](#).

NRT SUPPLY:

Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) supply has become a core aspect of the pharmaceutical services contract, we recommend that all NRT products should be prescribed by community pharmacists either directly or by referral from the Smoking Cessation Advisor.

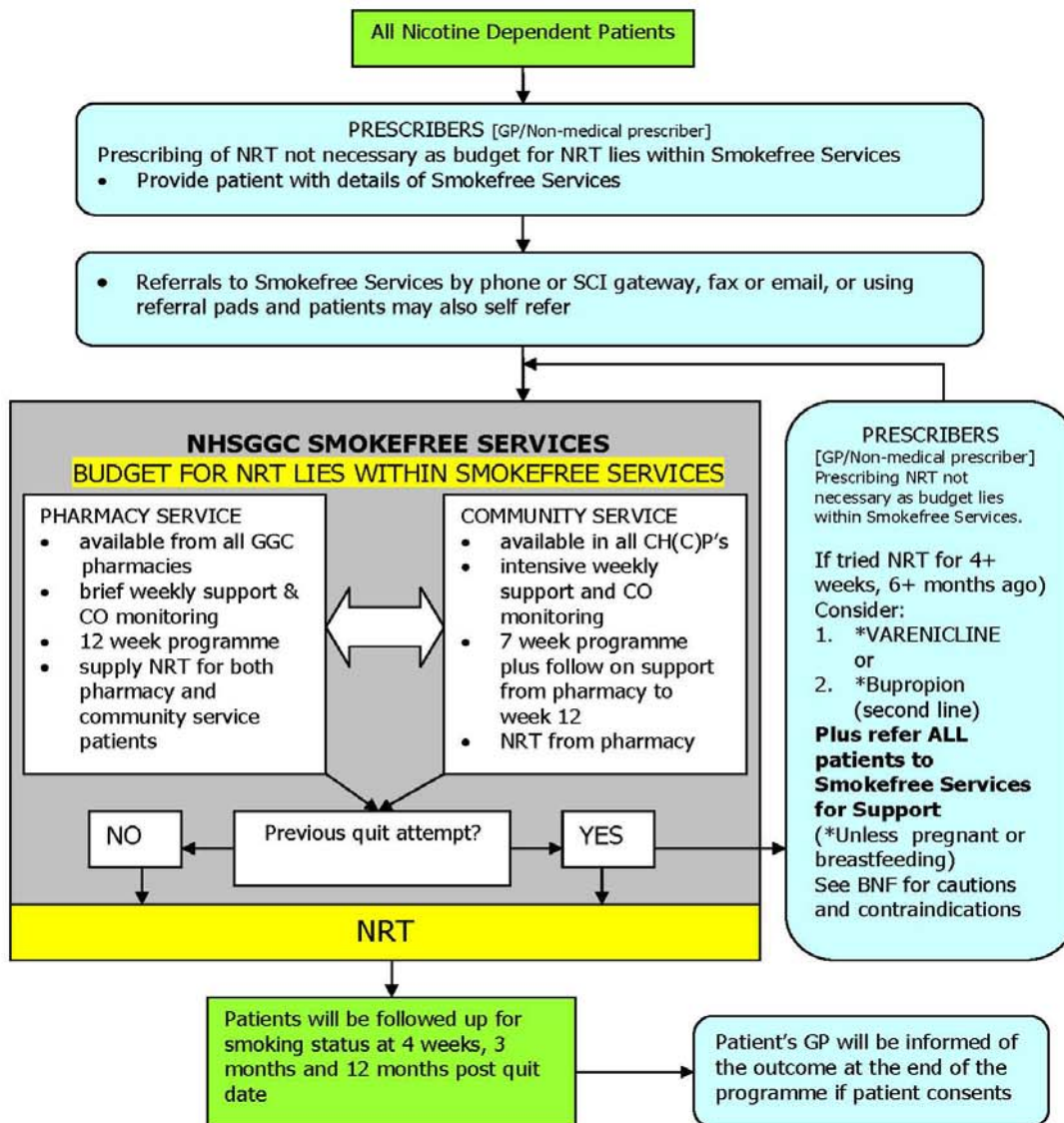
This is because;

- The budget for NRT sits within the community pharmacy arm of Smokefree services. All pharmacies can provide NRT.
- In the past many patients prescribed NRT on a GP10 were not linked into a recognised cessation service and thus missed out on support which is crucial to a successful quit attempt and consequently:
- This data was then not available to be captured on the HEAT target database.

Please find below a flow chart on prescribing guidance for smoking cessation.

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE PRESCRIBING TEAM

NHSGGC PRIMARY CARE SMOKING CESSATION PRESCRIBING GUIDANCE



Further information

- Nicorette® patches are the first line treatment of choice in the NHSGGC Formulary. Alternative Nicorette® products are second line.
- Under Smokefree services, Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) is supplied on a weekly basis which provides the opportunity for regular support. Varenicline should also be prescribed and supplied on a 'dispense weekly' basis.
- Varenicline (Champix®) should only be prescribed to patients who have failed to stop smoking on at least 4 weeks of NRT more than 6 months ago plus referral to Smokefree Services for behavioural support as per Nice Guidance and GGC Formulary.

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www.nhsggcsmokefree.org.uk

To receive this bulletin electronically, send an e-mail to nhsggc-postscript-subscribe@googlegroups.com

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