Registered Nurses Referral to Quitlines: Helping Smokers Quit (RNQL-HSQ) in Louisiana

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"Registered Nurses Referral to Quitlines: Helping Smokers Quit"
Supported by Pfizer Independent Grants for Learning & Change (ID # 045844) in collaboration with the Smoking Cessation Leadership Center, University of California, San Francisco. Developed in collaboration with Rx for Change©: Clinician-Assisted Tobacco Cessation
The RNQL-HSQ project aims to:

- Provide information to improve nurses’ day-to-day clinical practice in helping smokers quit
- Educate nurses about the negative health impact of tobacco use and the health benefits of quitting smoking for patients Louisiana
- Provide current evidence-based information about tobacco dependence and effective interventions to help smokers quit
- Improve nurses’ confidence in helping hospitalized smokers quit
- Disseminate resources to support nurses’ efforts in helping smokers quit
CHANGING WHAT A “GOOD NURSE” DOES
# U.S. Annual Deaths Attributable to Smoking, 2000–2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Deaths</th>
<th>Percent of all smoking-attributable deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular diseases</td>
<td>128,497</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lung cancer</td>
<td>125,522</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respiratory diseases</td>
<td>103,338</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second-hand smoke</td>
<td>49,400</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancers other than lung</td>
<td>35,326</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,512</td>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**U. S. TOTAL: 443,595 deaths annually**

**Louisiana: 6,499 every year**


Trends in cigarette current smoking among persons aged 18 or older

19.0% of adults are current smokers

68.8% want to quit
51.8% tried to quit in the past year

Graph provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1955 Current Population Survey; 1965–2011 NHIS. Estimates since 1992 include some-day smoking.
SMOKING PREVALENCE IN LOUISIANA

Current smoking rate 25.7% (29.5% men, 22.3% women) 5th highest in the U.S.

Source: Behavioral Risk Factors Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Tobacco Control State Highlights 2012
An estimated 4,800 compounds in tobacco smoke, including 11 proven human carcinogens

### Gases
- Carbon monoxide
- Hydrogen cyanide
- Ammonia
- Benzene
- Formaldehyde

### Particles
- Nicotine
- Nitrosamines
- Lead
- Cadmium
- Polonium-210

Nicotine is the addictive component of tobacco products, but it does NOT cause the ill health effects of tobacco use.
FINDINGS:

- Smoking harms nearly every organ of the body, causing many diseases and reducing the health of smokers in general.

- Quitting smoking has immediate as well as long-term benefits, reducing risks for diseases caused by smoking and improving health in general.

- Smoking cigarettes with lower machine-measured yields of tar and nicotine provides no clear benefit to health.

- The list of diseases caused by smoking has been expanded.


HEALTH CONSEQUENCES of SMOKING

- Cancers
  - Acute myeloid leukemia
  - Bladder and kidney
  - Cervical
  - Esophageal
  - Gastric
  - Laryngeal
  - Lung
  - Oral cavity and pharyngeal
  - Pancreatic

- Pulmonary diseases
  - Acute (e.g., pneumonia)
  - Chronic (e.g., COPD)

- Cardiovascular diseases
  - Abdominal aortic aneurysm
  - Coronary heart disease
  - Cerebrovascular disease
  - Peripheral arterial disease

- Reproductive effects
  - Reduced fertility in women
  - Poor pregnancy outcomes (e.g., low birth weight, preterm delivery)
  - Infant mortality

- Other effects: cataract, osteoporosis, periodontitis, poor surgical outcomes

Second-hand smoke causes premature death and disease in all nonsmokers.

- **Children:**
  - Increased risk for sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), acute respiratory infections, ear problems, and more severe asthma
  - Respiratory symptoms and slowed lung growth if parents smoke

- **Adults:**
  - Immediate adverse effects on cardiovascular system
  - Increased risk for coronary heart disease and lung cancer

- Millions of Americans are exposed to smoke in their homes/workplaces

- Indoor spaces: eliminating smoking fully protects nonsmokers
  - Separating smoking areas, cleaning the air, and ventilation are not effective

There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke.
ANNUAL SMOKING-ATTRIBUTABLE ECONOMIC COSTS

Health-care expenditures: $96.7 billion

Lost productivity costs: $97.6 billion

Total federal-state Medicaid program costs: $30.9 billion

Total Medicare program costs: $18.9 billion

Total economic burden of smoking, per year: $194 billion

Societal costs: $10.47 per pack of cigarettes smoked

FINANCIAL IMPACT of SMOKING

Buying cigarettes every day for 50 years at $6.00 per pack
(does not include interest)

- $109,500
- $219,000
- $328,500

Dollars lost, in thousands
FORMS of TOBACCO

- Cigarettes
- Pipes
- Cigars
- Clove cigarettes
- Bidis
- Smokeless tobacco (chewing tobacco, snus, oral snuff)
- Hookah (waterpipe smoking)
- Electronic cigarettes ("e-cigarettes")*

*e-cigarettes are devices that deliver nicotine and are not regulated as form of tobacco.

Image courtesy of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention / Rick Ward
HOOKAH
(WATERPIPE SMOKING)

- Also known as
  - Shisha, Narghile, Goza, Hubble bubble
- Tobacco flavored with fruit pulp, honey, and molasses
- Increasingly popular among young adults in coffee houses, bars, and lounges
  - An estimated 7-10% of U.S. college students currently smoke hookah
- Nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide levels comparable to or higher than those in cigarette smoke

Source: CDC, http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/data_statistics/fact_sheets/tobacco_industry/hookahs/
ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

- Battery operated devices that deliver vaporized nicotine
  - Cartridges contain nicotine, flavoring agents, and other chemicals
- Battery warms cartridge; user inhales nicotine vapor or ‘smoke’
- Available on-line and in shopping malls
- Not labeled with health warnings
- Preliminary FDA testing found some cartridges contain carcinogens and impurities (e.g., diethylene glycol)
- No data to support claims that these products are a safe alternative to smoking or a quitting aid
- Increase in use among teens

Sources: CDC, http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6235a6.htm
SMOKING CESSATION: REDUCED RISK of DEATH

- Prospective study of 34,439 male British doctors
- Mortality was monitored for 50 years (1951–2001)

On average, cigarette smokers die approximately 10 years younger than do nonsmokers.

Among those who continue smoking, at least half will die due to a tobacco-related disease.

QUITTING:
HEALTH BENEFITS

Circulation improves, walking becomes easier
Lung function increases

Excess risk of CHD decreases to half that of a continuing smoker
Lung cancer death rate drops to half that of a continuing smoker
Risk of cancer of mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney, pancreas decrease

2 weeks to 3 months
Lung cilia regain normal function
Ability to clear lungs of mucus increases
Coughing, fatigue, shortness of breath decrease

1 to 9 months
Risk of stroke is reduced to that of people who have never smoked

1 year
Risk of CHD is similar to that of people who have never smoked

5 years

10 years

after 15 years
Treatment should address the physiological and behavioral aspects of dependence.
Nicotine reaches the brain within 10-20 seconds.

Plasma nicotine levels (ng/ml) are shown over time (minutes after light-up of cigarette). Arterial nicotine levels peak around 3-5 minutes, while venous levels rise more gradually. The graph indicates that nicotine reaches the brain within 10-20 seconds.
Nicotine stimulates dopamine release

Pleasurable feelings

Repeat administration

Tolerance develops

Nicotine addiction is not just a bad habit.

Discontinuation leads to withdrawal symptoms.
Tobacco users maintain a minimum serum nicotine concentration in order to:
- Prevent withdrawal symptoms
- Maintain pleasure/arousal
- Modulate mood

Users self-titrate nicotine intake by:
- Smoking/dipping more frequently
- Smoking more intensely
- Obstructing vents on low-nicotine brand cigarettes
NI COTINE PHARMACODYNAMICS: WITHDRAWAL EFFECTS

- Irritability/frustration/anger
- Anxiety
- Difficulty concentrating
- Restlessness/impatience
- Depressed mood/depression
- Insomnia
- Impaired performance
- Increased appetite/weight gain
- Cravings

Most symptoms manifest within the first 1–2 days, peak within the first week, and subside within 2–4 weeks.

"Numerous effective medications are available for tobacco dependence, and clinicians should encourage their use by all patients attempting to quit smoking—except when medically contraindicated or with specific populations* for which there is insufficient evidence of effectiveness."

*MEDICATIONS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVE SUCCESS RATES.* Includes pregnant women, smokeless tobacco users, light smokers, and adolescents.

# FDA-APPROVED MEDICATIONS for SMOKING CESSATION

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nicotine polacrilex gum</th>
<th>Nicotine nasal spray</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Nicorette (OTC)</td>
<td>• Nicotrol NS (Rx)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Generic nicotine gum (OTC)</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nicotine lozenge</th>
<th>Nicotine inhaler</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Nicorette Lozenge (OTC)</td>
<td>• Nicotrol (Rx)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nicorette Mini Lozenge (OTC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Generic nicotine lozenge (OTC)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Nicotine transdermal patch</th>
<th>Bupropion SR (Zyban)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• NicoDerm CQ (OTC)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Generic nicotine patches (OTC, Rx)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Varenicline (Chantix)</th>
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These are the only medications that are FDA-approved for smoking cessation.
NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY: RATIONALE for USE

- Reduces physical withdrawal from nicotine
- Eliminates the immediate, reinforcing effects of nicotine that is rapidly absorbed via tobacco smoke
- Allows patient to focus on behavioral and psychological aspects of tobacco cessation
PLASMA NICOTINE CONCENTRATIONS for NICOTINE-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

Nicotine levels for various nicotine-containing products

- Cigarette
- Moist snuff
- Nasal spray
- Inhaler
- Lozenge (2mg)
- Gum (2mg)
- Patch
Combination Pharmacotherapy

- **Combination NRT**
  - Long-acting formulation (patch)
    - Produces relatively constant levels of nicotine
  - **PLUS**
    - Short-acting formulation (gum, inhaler, nasal spray)
      - Allows for acute dose titration as needed for nicotine withdrawal symptoms
- **Bupropion SR + Nicotine Patch**
TOBACCO CESSATION REQUIRES BEHAVIOR CHANGE

- Fewer than 5% of people who quit without assistance from a healthcare provider or program are successful in quitting for more than a year.

- Few patients adequately PREPARE and PLAN for their quit attempt.

- Many patients do not understand the need to change behavior.

- Patients think they can just “make themselves quit.”

Behavioral counseling is a key component of treatment for tobacco use and dependence.
Often, patients automatically smoke in the following situations:

- When drinking coffee
- While driving in the car
- When bored
- While stressed
- While at a bar with friends
- After meals
- During breaks at work
- While on the telephone
- While with specific friends or family members who use tobacco

Behavioral counseling helps patients learn to cope with these difficult situations without having a cigarette.
With help from a clinician, the odds of quitting approximately doubles. Compared to patients who receive no assistance from a clinician, patients who receive assistance are 1.7–2.2 times as likely to quit successfully for 5 or more months.

**Type of Clinician**

NURSES CAN MAKE a DIFFERENCE

Nursing intervention for smoking cessation vs. usual care

Compared to smokers who receive usual care, smokers who receive assistance from a nurse have a 29% greater probability of successfully quitting for 6 or more months.

Rice, Hartmann-Boyce, Stead. (2013) Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews No.: CD001188.
THE POCKET GUIDE
Helping Smokers Quit:
A Guide for Clinicians

The 5 A’s

• Ask
• Advise
• Assess
• Assist
• Arrange

ASK about tobacco use

- “Do you, or does anyone in your household, ever smoke or use any type of tobacco?”
  - “We like to ask our patients about tobacco use, because it has the potential to interact with many medications.”
  - “We like to ask our patients about tobacco use, because it contributes to many medical conditions.”
STEP 2: ADVISE
tobacco users to quit

“Quitting is important, and I can refer you to people who can help you.”

“There are several medications that can help you to quit. I’d be happy to ask the [doctor, nurse, pharmacist, etc.] to talk with you about these options.”

“People who receive assistance with quitting are more likely to be able to quit successfully. If you are interested, we can talk about different options.”
STEP 3: ASSESS

- **ASSESS** readiness to quit

- Ask every tobacco user if s/he is willing to quit at this time.

- If willing to quit, provide resources and assistance
  - See STEP 4, *ASSIST*

- If NOT willing to quit at this time, provide resources and enhance motivation.
NOT READY to QUIT Counseling Strategies

Consider asking:

“Do you ever plan to quit?”
- If YES
  “What might be some of the benefits of quitting now, instead of later?”
  Most patients will agree: there is no “good” time to quit, and there are benefits to quitting sooner as opposed to later.
- If NO
  Advise patients to quit, and offer to assist (if or when they change their mind).

“What would have to change for you to decide to quit sooner?”
Responses will reveal some of the barriers to quitting.
STEP 4: ASSIST

- tobacco users with a quit plan
  
  Set a quit date, ideally within 2 weeks.
  Get support from family, friends, and coworkers.
  Review past quit attempts—what helped, what led to relapse.
  Anticipate challenges, particularly during the critical first few weeks, including nicotine withdrawal.
  Identify reasons for quitting and benefits of quitting.
  Give advice on successful quitting:
    - Complete abstinence is essential—*not even a single puff.*
    - Drinking alcohol is strongly associated with relapse.
    - Having other smokers in the household hinders successful quitting.
STEP 4: ASSIST (cont’d)

- **ASSIST** tobacco users with a quit plan
  - Encourage use of pharmacotherapy when not contraindicated
  - Provide resources:
    - Toll-free telephone quitline
      - National and LA: 1-800-QUIT NOW
      - Web site for free materials in LA: [http://quitwithusla.org](http://quitwithusla.org)
      - Tobacco Free Nurses: [www.tobaccofreenurses.org](http://www.tobaccofreenurses.org)
    - Cessation materials appropriate by age, culture, language, education, and pregnancy status
STEP 5: ARRANGE

- ARRANGE follow up visits
  - Provide information for follow up visits with his/her health care provider
  - If a relapse occurs, encourage repeat quit attempt—tell patient that relapse is part of the quitting process.
    - Review circumstances that caused relapse.
    - Use relapse as part of the learning experience.
    - Reassess pharmacotherapy use and plans for termination.
  - Refer to other resources, particularly the quitline.
Referring patients to a toll-free quitline is simple and easily integrated into routine patient care.

- **Quitlines** are effective and provided at no cost to the caller.
- **Quitline** callers receive one-on-one coaching and follow-up from trained counselors in single or multiple sessions, online services.
- **Smokers receiving telephone counseling** are more likely to quit than those who only use self-help materials.
- Referrals through fax: [http://quitwithusla.org/pages/detail/24/Fax-To-Quit-Louisiana](http://quitwithusla.org/pages/detail/24/Fax-To-Quit-Louisiana)
- Referrals through the website: [http://quitwithusla.org](http://quitwithusla.org)

1-800-QUIT-NOW (800-784-8669)
RESOURCES:
1 800 QUIT NOW (1 800 784-8669)

Louisiana Smokers’ Quitline
- Materials, referrals, training to healthcare professionals (online & in-person), free medications (e.g. NRT) in some cases
- Web-based services: http://quitwithusla.org
- Open 24 hr/day (closed some holidays); several languages and hearing impaired

Smoking Cessation Trust Services (SCTMS)
- Cessation assistance (group counseling, telephone support, NRT for current LA residents who started smoking cigarettes prior to September 1, 1988. Apply at www.smokefreela.org

Louisiana’s Tobacco Control Program
- http://quitwithusla.org
WHY SHOULD LOUISIANA NURSES ADDRESS TOBACCO?

- Helping your patients to quit is the **most important** thing you can do to protect their health now and in the future.

- If each of the over 50,000 nurses in Louisiana helped five smokers per year to quit, we could reach over one quarter million smokers in the state!

- You *can* make a big difference in your patients’ lives!
TOBACCO FREE NURSES
LA Nurses Helping Smokers Quit

http://www.tobaccofreenurses.org/RNQL-HSQ

Thank You