

Quit Tobacco

How Pharmacists Can Help

Pharmacists are a new resource for tobacco cessation in local communities

- A new California law (Senate Bill [SB] 493, enacted 2013) designates pharmacists as health care providers, and expands opportunities for pharmacists to assess and treat patients.¹
- SB 493 authorizes pharmacists, certified in smoking cessation therapy, to furnish prescription nicotine replacement therapy products (NRT) such as nicotine nasal spray or inhalers.¹
- Pharmacists are taking an active role in promoting health in their communities by helping patients quit smoking, and referring smokers to cessation services such as the no-cost California Smokers' Helpline, 1-800-NO-BUTTS.
- Designating pharmacists as health care providers increases access to tobacco cessation services.

Pharmacists have an important role in their communities

- Pharmacists are highly qualified and trained in direct patient care, and disease prevention and management.²
- Most pharmacies are open beyond normal business hours.²
- Pharmacists are widely accessible health care providers. Over 90 percent of people live within five miles of a pharmacy.²

Why pharmacists are a great resource for tobacco cessation

- No appointment is necessary to see a pharmacist.
- A pharmacist may be closer or more accessible than a primary care provider.
- Pharmacists can help tobacco users determine the right NRT medicine to meet their needs.
- Pharmacists certified in smoking cessation can furnish prescription NRT to their patients. They can also help patients locate additional support for quitting.

For Free Help Quitting Smoking, Call 1-800-NO-BUTTS

1. California Pharmacists Association. (2014). What does SB493 mean for me? Retrieved from http://www.cshp.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/sb_493_fact_sheet_-_10.8.13.pdf

2. California Pharmacists Association. (2014). SB 493 (Hernandez): Putting pharmacists on the care team. Retrieved from http://www.cshp.org/sites/main/files/sb_493_talking_points.pdf

