

Quit Tobacco

How Pharmacists Can Help

Pharmacists are a resource for tobacco cessation in local communities

- (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 or Vaping, Call 1-800-NO-BUTTS**

1. Senate Bill No. 493, 2013-14, Amending Cal. Business and Professions Code §§ 733, 4040, 4050, 4051, 4052, 4052.3, 4060, 4076, 4111, and 4174 and adding §§ 4016.5, 4052.6, 4052.8, 4052.9, 4210, and 4233 (Ca. 2013) available at http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB493.

2. California Pharmacists Association. (2014). SB 493 (Hernandez): Putting pharmacists on the care team. Retrieved from : https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cshp.org/resource/collection/C2EFF9A9-6154-4270-8336-64E2F31809E5/sb_493_talking_points.pdf

