



KAREN L. SMITH, MD, MPH
Director and State Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor

June 18, 2015

Ms. Karen Halbo
Board of Pharmacy
1625 N. Market Boulevard, N219
Sacramento, CA 95834

Dear Ms. Halbo:

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) supports the California State Board of Pharmacy's proposed action to adopt Title 16, California Code of Regulations Section 1746.2, which would establish a standard protocol for pharmacists to furnish prescription nicotine replacement products without a doctor's prescription. The proposed protocol would significantly expand access to treatment for smokers statewide since over 90 percent of people live within five miles of a pharmacy and most pharmacies are open beyond normal business hours. Pharmacists are highly qualified and trained in direct patient care, and disease prevention and management. Additionally pharmacists rank as one of the most trusted professions for Americans (Gallup).

CDPH supports the provision that requires pharmacists to take an additional two hours of continuing education on smoking cessation and nicotine replacement therapy to ensure a pharmacist proficiently provides cessation services. The provision of cessation services by pharmacists is consistent with the growing trend of pharmacies to eliminate the sale of tobacco products. In 2014, CVS announced that they would no longer sell cigarettes and tobacco products. In 2015, Raley's also announced that it would stop selling tobacco products at most of its supermarkets across Northern California and Nevada. Pharmacies such as CVS and Target have set up basic health clinics where customers can have basic health needs met.

If you need further information regarding this matter, please contact April Roeseler, M.S.P.H., Chief, California Tobacco Control Program at April.Roeseler@cdph.ca.gov or (916) 449-5504.

Sincerely,

Karen L. Smith, MD, MPH
Director and State Health Officer