Tobacco Screening, Treatment, and Referral Workflow

Source: The Brief Tobacco Intervention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2024.

Medical Assistant (MA) rooms patient.

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MA takes patient vitals; enters results in electronic medical record (EMR).

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MA screens patient for current tobacco use; enters patient response in EMR.

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TOBACCO SCREENING

During the past 30 days, how often did you smoke cigarettes, vape, or use other tobacco products?
Not at all
*Some days**
*Every day**

*Response triggers alert in EMR for provider to conduct the *Brief Tobacco Intervention: 2As & R*.

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Provider enters room; opens EMR; sees *Brief Tobacco Intervention: 2As & R** alert.

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Provider conducts *2As & R*; enters patient responses in EMR.

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ASK

Which tobacco products do you currently use?
How long have you used each product?

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ADVISE

Quitting smoking, vaping, or other tobacco use is the best thing you can do for your physical and mental health. You will breathe better, feel less tired, and lower your risk for cancer and other diseases. It will also reduce feelings of stress, anxiety, and depression.
What are your thoughts about quitting?

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REFER – READY TO QUIT

If the patient is ready to quit, refer them to resources that will help them quit. Prescribe medications, if appropriate.

CT Quitline is a free and confidential telephone resource that I recommend. It will provide you with support, help you create a quit plan, and talk with you about how to deal with urges to smoke or vape after you quit. They also offer free nicotine replacement therapy. Do you consent to participate in the program?

Complete CT Quitline **Online Referral Form** with patient.

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REFER – NOT READY TO QUIT

If the patient is not ready to quit, use Motivational Interviewing or other techniques to encourage them to quit. Personalize your messages to them. Let them know that the CT Quitline is available 24/7, and they can call 1-800-QUIT-NOW when they are ready.

Tobacco screening and cessation are billable services. Learn more from the American Lung Association's *Billing Guide for Tobacco Screening and Cessation*.