

for Dental Professionals

Tobacco Dependence Treatment Roles

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Dentist:

- Convene office team to solicit support for the program and to determine the office plan of action.
- Appoint a dentist or hygienist as program coordinator. The coordinator will be responsible for tracking and assessing the effectiveness of the tobacco cessation interventions for each patient.
- Negotiate roles of other team members. Work with hygienist(s) to counsel patients (1-3 minutes) concerning oral effects of tobacco use and benefits of quitting.
- Refer patients to the free Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line (**1-800-QUIT-NOW** or **1-800-784-8669**) for free coaching and information about local tobacco dependence treatment programs.
- Recommend and prescribe nicotine replacement products; varenicline (Chantix); bupropion (Zyban); or a combination of bupropion and nicotine replacement medication (when appropriate).
- Establish meetings to monitor program progress and evaluate personnel time and commitment; reassign responsibilities if needed. Introduce new team members to program-related responsibilities; delegate training to appropriate personnel, when necessary.

Hygienist:

- Assess tobacco use for every patient via medical history and personal interview. Assess their willingness to quit.
- Provide personalized oral health information as it relates to tobacco use.
- Determine patient's motivation for quitting.
- Based on patient information, provide quit strategies.
- Inform patient of follow-up procedures.
- Record tobacco use status, counseling interactions and any medications in patient chart. A smoking cessation log may also be kept for quick reference and follow up on patients. This confidential log should include patient name, quit date, interventions prescribed, next follow-up date and whether the patient was ultimately successful with quitting tobacco use.
- Refer patients to the free Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line (**1-800-QUIT-NOW** or **1-800-784-8669**) for free coaching and information on local tobacco dependence treatment programs. It's sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services.
- Work with a dentist to evaluate the effectiveness of the program and implement any necessary changes.



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Dental Assistant:

- Order supplies, such as chart stickers and tobacco history questionnaires, as directed by the program coordinator.
- Monitor pamphlets/forms and reorder as necessary.
- Order Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line materials at www.medicine.wisc.edu/quitline/order
- Assist the receptionist, as needed, making follow-up calls concerning quit dates and progress achieved.
- Encourage patients who are going through the quitting process.

WISCONSIN TOBACCO
QuitLine
800-QUIT-NOW

Receptionist:

- Update medical history with current tobacco use status.
- Place indicator in medical record to reflect tobacco status.
- Place tobacco-history and counseling forms in medical record before visit.
- Note quit date in patient record, appointment book and tobacco-cessation log.
- Telephone patients around their quit dates to encourage and support them.
- Establish appropriate follow-up calls, letters and appointments.
- Replace tobacco-use indicator with non-tobacco-use indicator after a successful quit attempt.
- Record results of each quit attempt for team updates and patient feedback.

