

Quality Improvement Tool – Smoking Cessation Appendix 2

This following case study was prepared by University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust in response to a Public Health England and East Midlands Clinical Senate call for examples of best practice under the heading “**Meeting the Prevention Challenge in the East Midlands**”.

Project Title / Intervention

Smoker identification on electronic in-patient tracking system coupled with targeted intervention by commissioned dedicated bedside smoking cessation service

Brief Description

People admitted to hospitals may have their smoking status recorded in hand written nursing and medical notes. Prior to our new service, the only way of systematically identifying these patients by the stop smoking service, was to look through every set of notes on every ward, each day at each of the 3 Leicester hospitals.

The new system allows smoking status to be tagged on ‘patient –centre’ which is the hospital’s electronic in-patient tracking system, available in all hospitals. This means that a report can be generated each day, identifying the smokers on each ward at every hospital. The tag follows the patient when they are moved between wards and on subsequent hospital admissions. It saves the smoking cessation specialists hours and hours of time wading through hospital notes trying to identify current smokers.

The exact location of smokers then allows our in-house stop smoking specialists to visit smokers early in their admission and offer temporary abstinence in the form of nicotine replacement as well as start them on a course to smoking cessation. Before the patient leaves hospital, an appointment is made for the patient to see a community smoking cessation specialist near to the patient’s home. Hence our service integrates secondary care with community services.

The hospital based smoking cessation advisors were commissioned by Leicester City CCG directly in 2014 and allowed us to implement NICE guideline PH48 which states that smokers in hospital should be seen and offered support by hospital based smoking cessation specialists (in hospital when they most need help and are the most motivated to stop smoking).