

## Psychotropic drugs affected by smoking status

| Drug                       | Effect of smoking on plasma levels   | Action to be taken on stopping smoking  | Action to be taken on (re)starting smoking   |
|----------------------------|--|---|--|
| Benzodiazepines            | <br><b>Up to 50%</b><br>Plasma levels reduced by 0-50% (depends on drug and smoking status)   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider reducing dose by up to 25% over one week</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider re-starting 'normal' smoking dose</li> </ul>  |
| Chlorpromazine             | <br>Plasma levels reduced. Varied estimates of exact effect   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider dose reduction</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider reintroducing previous smoking dose</li> </ul>  |
| Clozapine                  | <br><b>Up to 50%</b><br>Reduces plasma levels by up to 50%. Plasma level reduction may be greater in those receiving valproate. Effect is reversed by co-administered fluvoxamine | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take plasma level before stopping</li> <li>• On stopping, reduce dose gradually (over a week) until around 75% of original dose reached (i.e. reduce by 25%)</li> <li>• Repeat plasma level one week after stopping</li> <li>• Anticipate further dose reductions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take plasma level before re-starting</li> <li>• Increase dose to previous smoking dose over one week</li> <li>• Repeat plasma level</li> <li>• Deterioration is common if dose increases allow a fall in blood levels.</li> </ul> |
| Duloxetine                 | <br><b>Up to 50%</b><br>Plasma levels may be reduced by up to 50%   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider 25% dose reduction</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider reintroducing previous smoking dose</li> </ul>   |
| Escitalopram               | <br><b>Up to 50%</b><br>Reduction in levels may be up to 50% (possibly via induction of CYP2C19)  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider 25% dose reduction</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Reinstate smoking dose</li> </ul>  |
| Fluphenazine               | <br><b>Up to 50%</b><br>Reduces plasma levels by up to 50%  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On stopping, reduce dose by 25%</li> <li>• Monitor carefully over the following 4-8 weeks</li> <li>• Consider further dose reductions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On re-starting, increase dose to previous smoking dose</li> </ul>   |
| Fluvoxamine                | <br><b>By 1/3</b><br>Plasma levels decreased by around one-third  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Dose may need to be reduced</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dose may need to be increased to previous levels</li> </ul>   |
| Haloperidol                | <br><b>25 to 50%</b><br>Reduces plasma levels by around 25-50%  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce dose by around 25%</li> <li>• Monitor carefully</li> <li>• Consider further dose reductions</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On re-starting, increase to previous smoking dose</li> </ul>  |
| Mirtazapine                | <br>Unclear, but effect probably minimal  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor</li> </ul>  |
| Olanzapine                 | <br><b>Up to 50%</b><br>Reduces plasma levels by up to 50%  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take plasma level before stopping</li> <li>• On stopping, reduce dose by 25%</li> <li>• After one week, repeat plasma level</li> <li>• Consider further dose reductions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take plasma level before re-starting</li> <li>• Increase dose to previous smoking dose over one week</li> <li>• Repeat plasma level</li> </ul>  |
| Trazodone                  | <br><b>25%</b><br>Around 25% reduction  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor for increased sedation</li> <li>• Consider dose reduction</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider increasing dose</li> </ul>  |
| Tricyclic anti-depressants | <br><b>25 to 50%</b><br>Plasma levels reduced by 25-50%   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider reducing dose by 10-25% over one week</li> <li>• Consider further dose reductions</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor closely</li> <li>• Consider re-starting previous smoking dose</li> </ul>  |

Source: Taylor,D., Barnes,T., Young, A. The Maudsley Prescribing Guidelines in Psychiatry: 14th edition. Chichester: WILEY Blackwell; 2021