

Bulletin No. 14: Nov 2023

Distribution-: All Community Pharmacies by e-mail

**Updated Resource for
Clinically Significant Drug Interactions with Tobacco Smoking**

As the metabolism of some medicines can be affected when stopping (or starting) smoking, this should be taken into consideration when **supporting clients to quit**.

Although most interactions between medicines and tobacco smoking are not clinically significant, when there is a **change in smoking status** some medicines may need a **dosage adjustment or increased monitoring**.

Constituents of tobacco smoke may induce hepatic P450 isoenzymes and increase the metabolism of some medicines. If smoking is stopped the decrease in metabolism can lead to a clinically significant increase in plasma levels of certain medicines.

NHS Specialist Pharmacy Services (SPS) has significantly updated their reference guidance (superceding resources from January 2023's Bulletin) to include:

- ✓ additional medicines and
- ✓ more details on guidance, e.g. recommended dose titration if restarting smoking, etc.

at: [Considering drug interactions with smoking – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice*](#) under [Managing specific interactions with smoking](#)

Drugs for which stopping smoking may have a clinically significant effect include:

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| • Agomelatine | • Haloperidol | • Riociguat |
| • Chlorpromazine | • Melatonin | • Ropinirole |
| • Cinacalcet | • Methadone | • Theophylline |
| • Clozapine | • Mexiletine | • Warfarin |
| • Erlotinib | • Olanzapine | |
| • Flecainide | • Pirfenidone | |
| • Fluvoxamine | • Riluzole | |

We recommend:

- discarding any dated reference resources from SPS on this subject.
- bookmarking these webpages for reference and appropriate signposting. (No login needed)
- appropriate informing of the prescriber by the pharmacist of quit attempts where dosage adjustment or monitoring may be required.

Please find a template letter attached for use in such cases, also available at:
www.communitypharmacy.scot.nhs.uk/nhs-boards/nhs-greater-glasgow-clyde/pharmacy-services/smoking-cessation-public-health-service/

If you have any further queries please contact the Health Improvement Team at:
West House, Gartnavel Hospital, 1055 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0XH
T: 0141 201 4945 E: pharmacyhit@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

* <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/considering-drug-interactions-with-smoking/#:~:text=clinically%20significant%20drug%20interactions%20tobacco%20smoking>



GP Name:

GP Practice address:

Pharmacist's Name:

Pharmacy Address/Stamp

Dear Dr

NAME DATE OF BIRTH/CHI: is attending QYWStop Smoking Services for support to quit tobacco.

This client is prescribed the following medication:

This medication may require dose adjustment or increased monitoring due to the potential impact of **metabolic changes** that can occur **when smoking status is altered**.

This medication has been identified according to [Considering drug interactions with smoking – SPS - Specialist Pharmacy Service – The first stop for professional medicines advice¹](#) under **Managing specific interactions with smoking** as having a **clinically significant drug interaction with tobacco smoking**.

As your patient is going to be making a quit attempt and stopping smoking they may need their dose monitored or reduced to compensate for the above effect.

Your patient has set a quit date for.....

Many thanks for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

1. <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/considering-drug-interactions-with-smoking/#:~:text=clinically%20significant%20drug%20interactions%20tobacco%20smoking>