

Bulletin No. 14: Nov 2023

Distribution: All Community Pharmacies by email

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: ggc.pharmacyhit@nhs.scot

* <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 QYW
.....Stop 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 advice](#)¹ 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>