

Pharmacists Steering the Ship of Smoking Cessation

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Background

Smoking places a major burden on the healthcare system. In 2015 the NSW Health Smoke-free Healthcare Policy Directive was introduced to mandate the management of Smoking Cessation across NSW Health facilities.

Aim/Objectives

To assess the impact of the Pharmacist and district-led smoking cessation (SC) initiatives implemented between 2015 and 2018 as a result of the NSW Health Directive including the impact on inpatient smoking rates.



Method

A point-prevalence audit was conducted on all inpatients in 2015 and repeated in 2018. Pharmacist campaigning led to the creation of the Smoke-Free-Healthcare Working Group, with pharmacist as integral members. This group was the catalyst driving changes including:



Results

↓ **13.5%**
Smoking Prevalence

↑ **277%**
NRT usage

↑ **2 x**
Smoking Staff provided with brief intervention and NRT

👤 **100%**
Pharmacists completed Smoking Cessation education

👤 **89%**
Medical Division Nursing staff received face-to-face education

Conclusion

This study has demonstrated significant improvements in the access for patients and staff to smoking cessation medication and advice. Pharmacists have a pivotal role in steering change for the benefit of our patients.

