

Hospital patients who smoke and are seen by a health practitioner in a public hospital are offered brief advice and support to quit smoking

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Outcome

A reduction in the number of avoidable deaths and reduced variation for population groups.

Measure

Hospital patients who smoke and are seen by a health practitioner in a public hospital are offered brief advice and support to quit smoking

Type

Contributory measure

Relationship(s) to other frameworks

This measure formed part of the calculation for measuring the 2015/16 Ministry of Health Target 'Better Help for Smokers to Quit' and supports the Government's aspirational goal of a Smokefree NZ by 2025.

Rationale

At present, tobacco smoking places a significant burden on the health of New Zealanders and on the New Zealand health system. Tobacco smoking is related to a number of life-threatening diseases, including cardiovascular disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. It also increases pregnant smokers' risk of miscarriage, premature birth and low birth weight, as well as their children's risk of Asthma and Sudden Unexplained Death in Infants (SUDI).

Stopping smoking confers immediate health benefits on all people, and is the only way to reduce smokers' risk of developing a smoking-related disease. Providing smokers with brief advice to quit increases their chances of making a quit attempt.

By ensuring that all health professionals are routinely providing their patients with advice and support to quit, District Health Boards (DHBs), Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) and midwives are helping to ensure that people receive better health and disability services, and live longer and healthier lives.

Eligible population

All adults who are:

- aged 15 years and over
- admitted to hospital either acutely or for elective procedures
- admitted as an inpatient; and

- identified as a current tobacco smoker at the time of admission (a current tobacco smoker is someone who has smoked within the last four weeks).

Measure status

Active

Numerator

Number of hospital patients who smoke and are seen by a health practitioner in a public hospital who are offered brief advice and support to stop smoking

Denominator

Number of hospital patients who smoke

National target

95%

Local target

Milestones to be decided by Alliance

Annual weighting

Total population

Data Sources

Available through DHB

Data extracted from data sources

Available through DHB

Data availability

Available through DHB

Measure calculation process

Available through DHB

Relationship(s) to other measures

Measure development notes

For the purpose of this measure, a current smoker is someone who has smoked at all within the last four weeks.