

#### **Health and Adult Services**

# Patient Group Direction (PGD) for the Supply of

# VARENICLINE (Champix®) TABLETS 0.5mg & 1mg for Smoking Cessation Pharmacotherapy

by Registered, PGD Authorised and Accredited Pharmacists to Individuals Accessing the North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) Stop Smoking Service from Commissioned Community Pharmacies within North Yorkshire County

YOU MUST BE AUTHORISED BY NAME, UNDER THE CURRENT VERSION OF THIS PGD BEFORE YOU ATTEMPT TO WORK ACCORDING TO IT.

Direction Number: - NYCC 2020/CP09

29<sup>th</sup> June 2020 Valid from: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 Review date: 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022 **Expiry date:** 

This patient group direction has been developed & produced by: -									
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This PGD has been approved for use in North Yorkshire County Council by:									
Title	Name	Signature							
Director of Public Health (North Yorkshire County Council Public Health)	Dr Lincoln Sargeant (Authorising body Governance Authorisation)	Reflayear	25/06/20						

# 1. Clinical Condition or Situation to Which the Direction Applies

# **Indication** (defines situation or condition)

Nicotine dependant smokers for whom Varenicline has been assessed as a suitable smoking cessation pharmacotherapy option & who are accessing & receiving smoking cessation behavioural support from a NYCC commissioned Stop Smoking Service or the NYCC Specialist Stop Smoking Service (LiveWell Smokefree).

# **Objectives of care**

Varenicline as an option for helping clients wishing to quit smoking as part of the NYCC Stop Smoking Service

# **Inclusion criteria**

(Only use those criteria that are specific to your authorised role & competence. Ensure appropriate consent has been obtained or a best interest decision is in place before commencing any supply).

### Clients who are 18 years old and over and who meet all of the following criteria:

- Dependent tobacco users identified as sufficiently motivated to guit with varenicline or are allergic to nicotine or any excipients of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products:
- Client is resident or works in NYCC or is registered with a North Yorkshire General Practitioner (GP);
- The client agrees to receive weekly behavioural support according to the agreed protocol, or who is receiving support to stop smoking from a NYCC contracted Stop Smoking Service
- A full medical history is taken and documented and there are no contraindications, or cautions or identified reasons for exclusion for treatment with varenicline (see Exclusion Criteria and referral). Refer to Appendix 1 for Assessment to Supply Varenicline.
- Valid patient consent to treatment with Varenicline has been obtained and recorded.
- Have consented for information to be shared with their own GP and recorded on the Assessment to Supply Varenicline form (see Appendix 1) and sent securely (e.g. via secure email/fax) along with appropriate notification letter to the GP within 72hours of supply by the accredited pharmacist. (Please refer to the SLA for the protocol of instructions on supplementary forms to be used).

### **Exclusion criteria** (please also refer to current SPC and latest BNF)

### Clients fulfilling one or more of the following criteria are excluded from supply under this PGD: -

- No valid consent /best interest decision in place;
- Clients under 18 years of age;
- Clients not registered with a GP;

- Tobacco users not sufficiently motivated to quit or to use Varenicline;
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women:
- No consent to share information with GP
- Patient has had an unsuccessful attempt to quit using varenicline on the smoking cessation programme in the last 6 months;
- Have any contraindication to varenicline (Champix®) tablets (see manufacturer's Champix® SPC)
- Hypersensitivity to any ingredient, component or excipient of varenicline (Champix®) (refer to manufacture's SPC for details)
- Client is already receiving varenicline for Smoking Cessation;
- Client is using other smoking cessation therapies. (These will need to be discontinued before patient can be considered for varenicline);
- Moderate or severe renal impairment (including elderly patients whose renal status is not known);
- Clients with a current unstable psychiatric illness, such as schizophrenia, schizoaffective disorder, bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder; Clients with active or history of severe and enduring mental illness (Please also refer to cautions section);
- Epilepsy or history of seizures; predisposition to seizures, or other medical condition that potentially lowers the seizure threshold;
- Patients with a history of unstable cardiovascular disease or who have had a cardiovascular event in the previous 3 months;
- Clients who have experienced serious or worrying side effects from a previous course of varenicline;
- If considered necessary due to medical history, the client's GP should be contacted before the client is commenced on varenicline.
- Client is unable to supply sufficient information regarding possible exclusions to enable a decision to supply to be made safely

(Refer to the latest version of the SPC available at http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19045)

### **Cautions/Precautions** (including any relevant action to be taken)

### Possible Physiological effects of Stopping Smoking (with or without stop smoking pharmacotherapy)

Cigarette smoking increases the metabolism of some medicines by stimulating cytochrome P450 hepatic enzymes (particularly CYP1A2). Consequently, if a patient stops smoking the CYP1A2 hepatic enzyme levels drop back to normal and so the metabolism of some drugs will be affected by increasing their drug plasma level concentrations. As a result, the dose of theophylline, cincalcet, ropinirole, and some antipsychotics (including clozapine, olanzapine, chlorpromazine and haloperidol) may need to be reduced.

This effect is of clinical importance for the drugs bulleted below. This list is not exhaustive, but additional specific advice must be provided to patients receiving theophylline, clozapine or olanzapine as these may be significantly affected by stopping smoking. Warfarin, insulin, caffeine and other medications should be monitored.

For a full list of interactions refer to appropriate reference sources, such as:

- UKMI Q&A 136.4, http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/tobacco/Publications/tool-14-medication-intera.pdf
- https://www.sps.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/NW20QA136.420Smoking20and20drug20interactions.doc
- https://www.gov.uk/drug-safety-update/smoking-and-smoking-cessation-clinically-significant-interactions-with-commonly-used-medicines
- Clients should be advised to inform their GP/specialist of their smoking cessation plan within two weeks of the initial varenicline pharmacy consultation. The standard letter to the GP (see Appendix 2) from the pharmacy (on initiation of varenicline) can also make reference to any medication identified above.

### Advice for Patients Receiving Medications Affected by Stopping Smoking

Patients should be advised to inform their GP, key worker or specialist of their smoking cessation and to discuss possible dose reduction of any affected medications as soon as smoking ceases.

- Cinacalet, Chlorpromazine, Methadone, Olanzapine, Ropinirole

Patients taking insulin should be informed to be alert for signs of hypoglycaemia and to test their blood glucose more frequently.

Theophylline:

When the client stops smoking, metabolism of theophylline is reduced which could cause plasma theophylline levels to rise, possibly to toxic levels if the dose of theophylline is not adjusted. Patients taking theophylline should be advised to discuss their smoking cessation guit attempt with their GP at their earliest opportunity ideally within two weeks of stopping smoking with a view to reducing their dose when they guit. Patients should be made aware of the signs of theophylline toxicity e.g. nausea, palpitations, vomiting, dilated pupils and hyperglycaemia etc. and recommended to seek urgent medical advice if these occur.

Warfarin

Patients taking warfarin should contact their anticoagulation clinic to inform them about stopping smoking & to arrange (and/or discuss the need) for more frequent / earlier INR tests.

### Patients with a history of psychiatric illness / psychiatric symptoms

The BNF states **care** should be taken with patients with a previous history of psychiatric illness/psychiatric symptoms (schizophrenia. bipolar disorder and major depressive disorder) - including any psychiatric condition requiring medication or psychotherapy in the past 5 years. Clients should be monitored closely while taking varenicline/stopping smoking for exacerbations of underlying disease, including depression.

- In line with MHRA / CHM advice (see BNF), all patients taking varenicline (regardless of psychiatric history) should be advised to discontinue treatment and seek prompt medical advice if they develop agitation, depressed mood or suicidal thoughts.
- Pharmacists should be aware of the possible emergence of significant depressive symptoms in clients undergoing a smoking cessation attempt. If serious neuropsychiatric symptoms occur whilst on varenicline treatment, patients should discontinue varenicline immediately and contact a healthcare professional for re-evaluation of treatment.
- Depressed mood, rarely including suicidal ideation & suicide attempt, may be a symptom of nicotine withdrawal.
- Smoking cessation, with or without pharmacotherapy, has been associated with exacerbation of underlying psychiatric illness (e.g. depression). (Refer also to SPC).

#### Cardiovascular events

Patients taking varenicline should be advised to notify their doctor of new or worsening cardiovascular symptoms and to seek immediate medical attention if they experience signs or symptoms of myocardial infarction or stroke

### **Action if excluded**

- Discuss alternative treatment options if suitable and/or offer a referral to their GP (use letter to provide varenicline under their supervision if clinically appropriate.
- Ongoing behavioural support can continue with the NYCC or pharmacy smoking cessation advisor as appropriate.

# Circumstances in which further advice should be sought from a doctor and/or specialist

 Refer to NYCC Specialist Smoking Cessation (LiveWell SmokeFree) service or GP or out of hours medical practitioner if necessary following local protocols.

# Action if patient declines treatment (offer to assist the patient in this process)

- Discuss alternative treatment options if suitable and/or offer a referral to their GP to provide varenicline under their supervision if clinically appropriate. Ongoing behavioural support can continue with the NYCC or pharmacy smoking cessation advisor.
- Refer back to Smoking Cessation Adviser if appropriate.
- Record the refusal in the clinical record and document all other actions taken.

# 2. Description of treatment

# Name, strength & formulation of drug

Varenicline (Champix®) 0.5mg film coated tablets (manufactured by Pfizer Limited)

Varenicline (Champix®) 1mg film coated tablets (manufactured by Pfizer Limited)

Varenicline (Champix®) Treatment initiation packs (0.5mg + 1mg film coated tabs) (Pfizer Limited)

# **Legal Status**

**POM** – Prescription Only Medicine

# **Dosage / Dose range**

Refer to Dose and frequency of administration section

# **Route/Method**

### **Oral administration only**

Tablets should be swallowed whole with plenty of water and can be taken with or without food. If the client is affected by nausea or other gastric disturbances, they should be advised to take varenicline with food. This will help minimise possible nausea.

# **Dose and Frequency of Administration**

Smokers should set a date to stop smoking. Treatment with varenicline should commence 1 to 2 weeks before this date using a titration pack.

**Day 1 to 3**: Take one 0.5mg (white) tablet once a day.

Day 4 to 7: Take one 0.5mg tablet twice a day

Day 8 to end of treatment: Take one 1mg (blue) tablet twice a day for 11 weeks.

(Can be reduced to 0.5mg twice a day (temporarily or permanently) if the 1mg dose is not

tolerated due to adverse effects).

### Varenicline dose tapering:

This can be commenced at week 10 to be completed by week 12 (if client agrees). Consider supply of a starter pack at reverse dosage,

with clear instructions, where patient takes:

- One week of varenicline 1mg twice daily
- THEN 0.5mg twice daily for four days
- THEN one 0.5mg tablet once daily for three days

### The total period of treatment is 12 weeks and cannot be exceeded beyond 12 weeks.

If patient requires further stop smoking intervention after 12 weeks, they should be referred to their GP.

#### Patients who are anxious about coming off varenicline:

These patients may have their dose lowered towards the end of treatment (maximum 12 weeks in total): Patients can be advised to taper their remaining tablets by taking one tablet daily for 3-4 days then one tablet every two days

# **Quantity to be Supplied**

Supply One: Supply a 14 day treatment initiation (titration) pack\*. (Use regime A or B as clinically appropriate).

- Advisor will issue a letter of recommendation for varenicline supply to the client (see Appendix 3) to take to the nominated pharmacist.
- Clients should set a guit date 7 to 14 days after initiation & be seen weekly by their Stop Smoking Adviser for up to 12 weeks.
- The patient's GP will be notified by the pharmacist of the first supply of Varenicline by using agreed letter (see Appendix 2) to allow the GP to intervene if necessary.
- At two weeks, pharmacists should confirm that patient has guit and that GP has not objected to patient receiving varenicline and that the client is receiving behavioural support sessions on a regular basis.
- All further supplies will normally be made at 2 weekly intervals **only** after confirmation is received from the Stop Smoking Adviser that the client is continuing to access behavioural support sessions on a regular weekly basis and should continue on varenicline.
- Notification confirming this to the supplying pharmacist will be made by the stop smoking advisor using the "Letter of recommendation for follow up varenicline supply" (see Appendix 4). The correct reference/client ID must be used in all correspondence to correlate the data at all times.
- Please refer to the SLA for documents to be used by pharmacist, pharmacy in house advisor and NYCC specialist advisor team.

REGIME A	f product tolerated)	REGIME B (If product not tolerated)					
Supply Two:	Two weeks (1mg x 28 tablets)	Supply Two:	Two weeks (0.5mg x 28 tablets).				
Supply Three:	Two weeks (1mg x 28 tablets).	Supply Three:	Two weeks (0.5mg x 28 tablets).				
Supply Four:	Two weeks (1mg x 28 tablets)	Supply Four:	Two weeks (0.5mg x 28 tablets).				
Supply Five:	Two weeks (1mg x 28 tablets).	Supply Five:	Two weeks (0.5mg x 28 tablets).				
Supply Six:	Two weeks (1mg x 28 tablets)	Supply Six:	Two weeks (0.5mg x 28 tablets).				

<sup>\*</sup>Alternative treatment initiation (titration) pack sizes may be used only with prior notification and agreement with NYCC Public Health, (e.g. where there is no available stock of the 14 day titration pack due to a nationally notified manufacturing supply problem). Appropriate adjustments to further supplies will need to be made, e.g. The use of a 28 day titration pack will require Supply Two from regime A to be omitted.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Variation to the supply quantity will require prior notification and agreement with NYCC Public Health.

### Maximum dose & number of treatments

- Maximum single dose: 1mg tablet
- Maximum daily dose : 2mg
- The normal treatment course is up to 12 weeks. (See also "Dose & Frequency of Administration" section)

# Follow up treatment/action

Refer to "Dose & Frequency of administration" and "Quantity to be Supplied sections

### **Storage**

- Blisters: Store below 30°C
- HDPE Container: This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions

# Labelling

- The packaging should be labelled in the manner of any prescribed medication and contain a manufacturer's patient information leaflet.
- Treatment initiation (titration) packs must bear the instruction to "take as directed on enclosed leaflet" and other packs to "Take one tablet twice a day"

# Written information to be given to patient or carer

A copy of the manufacturer's patient information leaflet should be supplied.

# Follow-up advice/information to be given to patient or carer

- Clients should be advised to set a guit date 7 to 14 days after initiation
- Advice to patients should include specific product advice on dosage, method of administration and side effects. Product should be labelled according to legal requirements.
- Women of child bearing potential should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant during treatment with Varenicline.

### Patients should be made aware of the following possible adverse reactions:

- Altered reaction to alcohol: patients may experience increased drunkenness, unusual or aggressive behavior, no memory of things.
- <u>Depressive Illness</u>: Clinicians should be aware of the possible emergence of depressive symptoms in patients
  undertaking a smoking cessation attempt and advise patients accordingly. Patients should be advised to seek medical
  advice if symptoms occur. It is important that the patient be encouraged to declare any current or history of mental
  illness (see information on exclusion criteria). Pharmacists should be aware of the possible stigma associated with the
  declaration of such conditions and therefore ensure that the patient has sufficient privacy during the initial consultation
  to facilitate such conversations.
- <u>Cardiovascular symptoms</u>: Patients should inform their GP of any new or worsening cardiovascular symptoms and seek immediate medical attention if they experience signs and symptoms of myocardial infarction or stroke.
- <u>Hypersensitivity reactions</u>: If the patient experiences swelling of the face, mouth (tongue, lips, gums), neck (throat, larynx) or extremities, whilst taking varenicline they should discontinue treatment and seek medical advice immediately.
- <u>Cutaneous reactions (rare)</u>: If the patient develops a rash or skin reaction whilst taking Varenicline, they should discontinue treatment at the first sign and seek medical advice immediately.

# Follow-up advice/information to be given to patient or carer - continued

### It is important to make sure that the patient understands the following points:

- Varenicline is not a **magic cure**: effort and determination are crucial;
- It works by acting on the parts of the brain which are affected by nicotine in cigarettes;
- It does not remove all the temptation to smoke, but it does make abstinence easier (it takes the edge off the discomfort by reducing the severity of tobacco withdrawal symptoms);
- About a third of clients may experience mild nausea usually about 30 minutes after taking varenicline. This reaction often diminishes gradually over the first few weeks, and most patients tolerate it without problems;
- If the patient is finding the side effects intolerable, they should seek advice from their Stop Smoking Adviser or Pharmacist.

### The following additional general advice should also be given:

- The importance of follow-up and how to obtain further supplies;
- Possible changes in the body on stopping smoking e.g. weight gain;
- Varenicline may cause drowsiness and dizziness. If affected the patient should be advised not to drive or operate machinery:
- If the patient forgets to take varenicline, they should not take a double dose to make up for the one they missed. It is important they take it as soon as they remember but if it is almost time for the next dose, they should not take the tablet they have missed:
- At the end of treatment, discontinuation of varenicline has been associated with an increase in irritability, urge to smoke and/or insomnia in up to 3% of patients.

### The major reasons for varenicline failure are:

- Unrealistic expectations:
- Lack of preparation for the fact that tablets may cause nausea;
- Insufficient support from trained smoking cessation advisor.

Patients will be supported by the NYCC Specialist Stop Smoking Service Advisor or a pharmacy in-house accredited Stop Smoking Advisor weekly for up to twelve weeks after the quit date and by the Pharmacist at each supply of varenicline.

### Criteria for stopping varenicline treatment immediately:

- The patient does not want to continue treatment;
- The North Yorkshire Stop Smoking Service or Pharmacist believes that varenicline treatment is no longer appropriate;
- An absolute contra-indication is brought to light or develops;
- The patient develops agitation and/or depressed mood, suicidal thoughts or other serious mood changes of concern (patient to be referred to GP for prompt medical advice);
- The patient experiences a cardiovascular, hypersensitivity or cutaneous adverse reaction;
- The patient experiences a side effect that is so severe as to impair quit attempt.

### **Informed Consent**

- Patient must be informed that information relating to the supply of varenicline under a PGD needs to be passed to other health service organisations, in particular their GP and NYCC Specialist Stop Smoking Service, to ensure proper record keeping and patient safety.
- All clients must provide written and verbal consent to contact the GP and other health care provider or if deemed necessary to obtain medical history including a list of prescribed medications or other information, which may be necessary in order for an advisor/clinician or a pharmacist to make an informed decision about commencing varenicline treatment.
- If client declines information being shared with their GP then it will not be possible to supply varenicline under this PGD.

# 3. Further Aspects of Treatment

# **Drug Interactions**

- No clinically meaningful drug interactions have been reported. Since metabolism of varenicline represents less than 10% of its clearance, active substances known to affect the cytochrome P450 system are unlikely to alter the pharmacokinetics of varenicline.
- No dosage adjustment of varenicline or co-administered medicinal products is recommended.

See manufacturer's SPC for further information. See also caution section above along with inclusion and exclusion criteria.

# **Relevant Warnings**

Relevant Warnings: - See manufacturer's SPC and current BNF for full details of all potential adverse effects.

- Depressed mood, rarely including suicidal ideation and suicide attempt may be a symptom of nicotine withdrawal.
- Clinicians must be aware of possible emergence of serious neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients attempting to quit smoking with or without treatment. If serious neuropsychiatric symptoms occur whilst on varenicline treatment, patients should be advised to discontinue varenicline immediately and seek prompt medical advice.
- Care should be taken with patients with a history of psychiatric illness and patient should be advised accordingly.

### **Potential Adverse Effects**

#### Potential Adverse Effects/: -

Please refer to the varenicline SPC: http://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/medicine/19045 or BNF (http://www.bnf.org.uk) for full list of side effects.

Use the Yellow Card System to report adverse drug reactions directly to the MHRA.

Very common & common reactions	<ul> <li>Nausea (about 30% of patients affected). This can be reduced by taking the tablet after food and with a full glass of water;</li> </ul>							
	•	Headache;	Nasopharyngitis;	Bronchitis;				
	•	Sinusitis;	Appetite changes;	Increased weight;				
	•	Insomnia;	Dry mouth, taste disturbances;					
	•	GIT disorders;	Dizziness;	Somnolence; Dyspnoea/ cough/				
	•	Arthralgia, myalgia,	Back pain;	Chest pain, fatigue;				
	•	Abnormal liver function tests; Rash / Pruritus.						
Uncommon effects (and may be symptomatic of nicotine withdrawal)	•	Abnormal thinking; Mood Swin Depressed mood, rarely inclu- of nicotine withdrawal	•	and suicide attempt may be a symptom				

This list is not exhaustive. Please also refer to current BNF and manufacturers SPC for details of all potential adverse reactions

# **Identification and Management of Adverse Reactions**

- Patient / Carer / Guardian requested to report side effects to Healthcare professional and/or GP
- Refer to doctor if appropriate
- Document in the Patient Medication Record (PMR), in relevant NYCC documentation and inform GP.

# **Reporting Procedure of Adverse Effects**

- See manufacturers Summary of Product Characteristics for details of all potential adverse reactions.
- Client to report any suspected ADRs believed to be associated with varenicline (Champix) tablets to a Healthcare Professional or directly using the Yellow Card system.
  - Clients and Healthcare Professionals can log ADRs directly via the MHRA website (http://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk/) or call freephone 0808 100 3352 (10am to 2pm Monday-Friday only), or via the yellow card found at the back of the current edition of the BNF. please post the yellow card to: FREEPOST YELLOW CARD (no other address details required).
- ADRs should also be reported to the North Yorkshire Stop Smoking Service and the patient's GP.

### Additional Information and Facilities

- Have access to the current PGD, latest manufacturer's Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) & BNF.
- Where non-face to face consultations are used please follow national guidance & current best practice such as the NCSCT Remote consultations - Delivering behavioural support and supply of NRT guidance.

# **Communication with client's General Practice & Stop Smoking Advisors**

- In every case when the **initial supply** of varenicline is made in accordance with this PGD, the pharmacist must inform the client's General Practitioner (GP) of the supply within two working days. (See Appendix 2).
- Smoking advisors will refer clients to the pharmacist provider using "letter of recommendation" (see Appendix 3).
- Pharmacist provider will notify the NYCC Specialist Stop Smoking Service (and the pharmacy stop smoking advisor where behavioural support is being provided in-house) of Varenicline assessment and of Supply One or Non-Supply through PharmOutcomes or as defined in the SLA.
- Stop smoking Advisor will provide behavioural support and notify pharmacist of attendance for follow up supplies of varenicline using the letter of recommendation for follow up of varenicline supply - form 5A (See Appendix 4).

# **Arrangements for Referral to Medical Advice**

Refer to NYCC Specialist Smoking Cessation Service or GP as appropriate

### Records

All details to be recorded and be retained according to local, legal and professional obligations.

### When supplying/administering medicines using this PGD the following records must be kept:

- Informed consent to share identifiable recorded information with the North Yorkshire Stop Smoking Service, participating pharmacies and the patient/ client's GP to ensure proper record keeping and patient safety;
- Name of patient/client, address, date of birth (where reasonably practical);
- Name of GP and address (if available); Diagnosis; Dose, form and route of administration;
- Manufacturer of product, batch number and expiry date; Date of treatment supply;
- Name and GPhC number of Pharmacist who supplied the medication;
- Any advice given to the patient;
- Details of any ADRs and action taken.

Pharmacists are required to keep a record of the consultation on PharmOutcomes and relevant supplementary forms (see Appendices section) and to make a record of supply in the Patient Medication Records (PMR). The supply of varenicline should also be recorded on PharmOutcomes.

Pharmacies must participate in annual clinical audit if requested by the commissioner

# Documents to be used in conjunction with the PGD

• See Appendix 1 - 6

### References

- 1. NHS Executive HSC 2000/026 (9th August 2000): Patient Group Directions [England only].
- 2. BNF Current Edition
- 3. **RPS**: Professional guidance on the safe and secure handling of medicines (December 2018) <a href="https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines/professional-guidance-on-the-safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines">https://www.rpharms.com/recognition/setting-professional-standards/safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines</a> guidance-on-the-safe-and-secure-handling-of-medicines
- 4. Declaration of competence for public health pharmacy services <a href="https://www.cppe.ac.uk/services/declaration-of-competence">https://www.cppe.ac.uk/services/declaration-of-competence</a>
- 5. RPS & RCN: Professional Guidance on the Administration of Medicines in Healthcare Settings (2019). https://www.rpharms.com
- 6. NICE MPG2 Patient Group Directions (Aug 2013) https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/mpg2
- 7. **NICE** TA123 Varenicline for Smoking Cessation (<a href="https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta123">https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ta123</a>)
- 8. Pfizer Limited, Champix 0.5mg and 1mg tablets **Summary of Product Characteristics**, 23/07/2019 (accessed from Electronic Medicines Compendium on 12/06/2020).
- 9. Package Leaflet now updated to Include New Safety & Efficacy Data from the EAGLES Clinical Trial Following Positive Opinion by CHMP1 July 2016 (<a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)30272-0/fulltext">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(16)30272-0/fulltext</a>)
- 10. **NCSCT**: Remote consultations Delivering behavioural support and supply of NRT (May 2020). Available at https://www.ncsct.co.uk/publication\_Remote\_consultations.php

# 4. Characteristics of Healthcare Professional using this PGD

Only those pharmacists that have been specifically authorised by their clinical lead/supervisor/manager or by self-declaration may use this PGD for the indications defined within it. You may only supply or administer medicines under a PGD as named individuals.

# **Qualification/registration requirements**

Accredited pharmacists currently registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) of Great Britain.

# **Additional requirements** (applies to all staff)

- Competency in the use of PGDs.
- Has read & understood this PGD and has assessed themselves as competent ideally using the NICE Competency Framework for health professionals using Patient Group Directions NICE PGD resources.
- Pharmacist with appropriate underpinning knowledge to competently undertake the clinical assessment of patients leading to treatment according to the indications listed in this PGD.
- The pharmacist must complete their Declaration of Competence Certificate (DOC) and required training as part of the DOC, as defined by the Centre for Pharmacy Postgraduate Education (CPPE) and repeat their CPPE declaration of competence every 3 years (Pharmacists should register their DOC on the CPPE website).
- Understands their professional duties in terms of confidentiality.
- To have access to PharmOutcomes.
- Have completed all relevant training as defined by NYCC service level agreement (SLA) & NCSCT (e.g. on line modules)
- Pharmacists to retain all training documentation. (Maintenance of accreditation is as defined by CPPE/NYCC).
- The pharmacist must ensure that the pharmacy they are working in is an NYCC approved stop smoking provider of varenicline for smoking cessation provision under PGD, before making any supply under this PGD.
- By signing up to this PGD, the pharmacist accepts personal responsibility for working under it, understands the legal implications of doing so, and works within the scope of the PGD.
- It is the responsibility of the pharmacist to ensure that they have appropriate up to date knowledge of the medicine prior to its supply and to maintain this knowledge and keep up to date with relevant developments, e.g. changes to manufacturer's literature or other changes to guidance that may affect this PGD or the operation of PGDs generally.
- The Provider will be required to comply with GPhC Standards of Conduct. Ethics and Performance and demonstrate maintenance of knowledge, skills and competencies, with evidence of Continuing Professional Development, ideally via CPD entries on to the General Pharmaceutical Council Website www.uptodate.org.uk/home/welcome.shtml.
- Each pharmacy must have a Standard Operating Procedure in place which covers the supply of varenicline (Champix®) tablets via this PGD.
- Has completed the pre-reading to include: NCSCT service and delivery guidance; varenicline SPC; BMJ systematic review; NICE PGD guidance; NCSCT varenicline: effectiveness and safety (see also further reading).

# **Continued training & competency requirements** (applies to all staff)

- Maintenance of own level of updating and competence with evidence of continued professional development.
- The Provider must ensure that supporting pharmacy staff are trained in dealing with patients in a patient-centred, user-friendly, confidential and non-judgmental manner when requesting varenicline. Providers are expected to work towards implementing the Department of Health paper 'You're Welcome' Quality Standards.
- Medicine counter staff must be trained to refer requests for varenicline to the pharmacist, smoking adviser or a suitable alternative provider if a suitably trained member of staff is not present.
- Any continued training requirements as deemed necessary by your organisation or the authorising body (NYCC). •

# Management & Monitoring of Patient Group Direction NYCC 2020/CP09

The Supply of

# VARENICLINE (CHAMPIX®) TABLETS 0.5MG & 1MG

### **Individual Healthcare Professional Authorisation**

This form can be used for the purpose of managing, monitoring and authorising the use of this Patient Group Direction by the named accredited pharmacist.

- This page is to be retained by the individual healthcare professional/practitioner.
- This PGD is to be read, agreed to and signed by the registered Healthcare Professional it applies to. Healthcare Professionals must be authorised by the person(s) named below before using the PGD. Pharmacists who do not have a clinical lead available to authorise them, will be required to authorise themselves, i.e. have the relevant Declaration of Competence in place.
- By signing this document, the pharmacist confirms that they understand the PGD, that they are competent to work under this PGD, that they will practice in accordance with the parameters of the PGD, accept full clinical responsibility for any decisions made with using this PGD and have appropriate professional indemnity insurance in place.
- Patient Group Directions should be used in conjunction with reference to national or local policies, guidelines or standard text (e.g. manufacturers Summary of Product Characteristics) and DO NOT replace the need to refer to such sources.

# \_\_\_\_\_ (name of healthcare professional), consider that I am competent to supply varenicline (Champix®) in accordance with this PGD and have completed the Declaration of Competence. I have read and understood the Patient Group Direction Varenicline 0.5mg and 1mg Tablets (Champix®) - Direction number: NYCC 2020/CP09 I agree to supply Varenicline 0.5mg and 1mg tablets (Champix<sup>®</sup>) in accordance with this PGD. I will maintain clinical records as defined by the PGD, PharmOutcomes, SLA & in line with recognised governance standards. Signature of Healthcare Professional: -Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_ GPhC Registration no.:\_\_\_\_\_ Full premises address..... Only complete next section if a manager/clinical lead is required to authorise you to use PGDs. Authorisation from Manager/Clinical Lead to use this PGD:-I confirm that the pharmacist named above has declared themselves suitably trained & competent to work under this PGD. for the above named pharmacist who has signed the PGD to work under it. Name of Manager/Clinical Lead: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Designation: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Manager/Clinical Lead: \_\_\_\_\_\_ Date signed: \_\_\_\_\_

PGD Valid from: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Agreement by Pharmacist

Review Date: April 2022 Expiry Date: - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

# Appendix 1 - Assessment to Supply Varenicline Form

# Form 3 – For Pharmacist Use Only - Client Assessment to Supply Varenicline Proforma

Pharmacy Stamp	Client Name:	nt Name:								
	Address:									
	Date of birth: Tel. number:									
	GPs name and address:									
	Average weekly (1 Unit = half a pint; 1 unit = 125ml (small glass of wine);									
	alcohol intake									
Client questions		Yes	No	Not	es					
Is the client registered with a GP?				If N	o - decline treatment & encourage to	register				
Does the client offer valid consent?				If N	o - decline treatment					
Does the client consent to share informat	ion with GP?			If N	o - decline treatment					
		•								
Exclusion Criteria: Varenicline cannot	be supplied under PG	D if <b>'Ye</b>	<b>s'</b> app	lies to	any of the following:					
Factor			Yes	No	Notes					
Is the client sufficiently motivated to quit	or use varenicline				If Yes – ask to come back when moti	vated				
Has client had a course of Varenicline in t	he last 6 months?				If Yes-refer to NYCC. NRT may be con	nsidered				
Client under 18 years of age					If Yes – consider NRT					
Pregnant or breastfeeding women					If Yes – consider NRT					
Hypersensitivity to Varenicline or any of i	ts excipients.				If Yes – consider NRT					
Does client have a history of, or currently	suffers from moderate of	or			If Yes – refer to GP					
severe impaired kidney function or kidne										
Does client suffer from epilepsy and or ha		with			If Yes – refer to GP					
other conditions that lower the seizure th										
Does client have a history of, or currently					If Yes – refer to GP					
(CV) disease or who have had a recent CV	•									
Does client have a history of feeling depr prescribed medication for low mood, dep		een			If Yes –refer to GP					
Have you ever been diagnosed with an ea					If Yes –refer to GP					
Client with current unstable psychiatric ill		nia			If Yes –refer to GP					
bipolar disorder, eating disorder and major		ilia,			in restricted di					
Has the client been admitted to a hospita	I to seek help regarding t	the			If Yes – refer to GP					
unstable psychiatric illness in the past 6 n										
psychotropic medication dose was chang										
Is client currently on another licensed sm					If 'yes' - Decline supply and refer bad	k to the				
(These will need to be discontinued before patient of		ne).			stop smoking advisor for review					
Is client on any other medication, herbal	products or vitamins?				Please list. Check PGD / BNF/SPC and information resources for interaction					
					information resources for interaction	13.				
				1						
Action taken:										
Supply:										
Referral to:	Advice given	n:								
The above information is correct and to t	he best of mv	The action	on spe	cified w	vas based on the information given to	me by				
knowledge. I have been counselled on the	•				ne best of my knowledge, is correct	-				
and understand the advice given to me b	y the pharmacist.			_						
Client's signature:	1	Pharmacist's signature:								
Date: Date:				Date:						

Date:

# **Appendix 2** – Example GP Notification Letter of Varenicline (Champix<sup>®</sup>) Initiation

Form 4 – For Pharmacist Use Only (to be sent to the patients GP after first consultation):

Notification to General Practitioners of supply of varenicline (Champix®) by an NYCC authorised community pharmacist

### Dear practice / receptionist. Please ensure that the Client's GP receives this message

Date:	Pharmacy Stamp
GP Name:	
GP Address:	
	Pharmacy Tel. no. or email:
	Client ID no
Dear Dr	(Client's General Practitioner)
MEDICATION STARTED: Varenicline 0.5mg da	(as part of a 0.5mg/1mg treatment initiation pack) and titrating up to a maximum of 1mg twice daily from day 8 of treatment)
Varenicline will start	on (date) and is supplied via PGD by pharmacist.
Client's name: Date of birth:	
Address:	
tablets using the NYCC approved patient group d	I have recommended and supplied them with <b>Varenicline (Champix)</b> lirection (PGD) to help their quit smoking attempt. The client will be taking pharmacy with weekly intensive behavioural support.
•	outivated to quit oural support from a suitably qualified stop smoking practitioner
•	n and they have no contraindications or risk factors for taking varenicline medication have been explained to the client.
No further action would be required from you, as with weekly intensive behavioural support. If there	is medicine to the client's medication records at your practice. the client will be receiving all supplies of Varenicline from my pharmacy e is information within the patient's medical record, which would mean that e inform me at the telephone number above within the next 72hours.
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need the date associated with this message. Many that	require any further information regarding this supply within 72 hours from
Yours Sincerely,	
Pharmacists Signature	(pharmacist print name)
Client declaration: I agree to the pharmacy passing on	this information to my GP in order to ensure that my medical records are up to date.
Client's Signature:	Date:
Additional notes (e.g. if Client has successfully quit)	

### Appendix 3 – Example letter of recommendation (by stop smoking advisor) for varenicline supply

Form 5 – For Advisor Use Only (send this letter when referring clients to the pharmacist for varenicline)

Letter of recommendation (by stop smoking advisor) for varenicline supply PGD accredited pharmacist to do rigorous screen prior to supply of Varenicline

Dear Pharmacist,
Client Name
Client name:has enrolled on a smoking cessation programme and with either a 1 to 1 advisor or group to assist them in their attempt to stop smoking.
To further help them in their attempt they would like to use a pharmacological smoking cessation aid (Varenicline – Champix). A discussion with regard to general health status and current medication has taken place and a varenicline screening questionnaire (attached) has been completed that you may find useful.
If you think it is appropriate for this client based on your assessment to use the indicated smoking cessation medication then we would be grateful if you could supply them with the treatment initiation (titration) pack of varenicline in line with the NYCC Varenicline PGD and also discuss its use with them.
We will provide the patient with ongoing support during their treatment with varenicline and will inform you by letter or email of the clients continued engagement with behavioural support. We will also alert you immediately of any side effects or problems experienced by your patient.
The client has set a quit date for
Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me or the service at the number/email below.
Yours sincerely,
(Advisor signature)
Advisor name: Tel.no

### Service Address

### Living Well SmokeFree

North Yorkshire County Council Specialist Stop Smoking Service White Rose House, Thurston Road, Northallerton, DL6 2NA Telephone No. 01609 797272

Email: stop.smoking@northyorks.gov.uk

# **Appendix 4 – Example letter of recommendation for follow up varenicline supplies**

Form 5A – For Advisor Use Only (to be sent to the pharmacist for subsequent supplies of varenicline):

(Service address: Sandpiper House, Kingfisher Place. Brook Street, Selby, YO8 4AL)
Datient Name:
Patient Name:
DOB/
Address: Quit date:
GP name/practice
Dear Pharmacist,
Patient name:have enrolled on a smoking cessation programme and continues to attend the stop smoking programme on a weekly basis and have confirmed a quit date as detailed above.
To further help them in their attempt they would like to continue to use a pharmacological smoking cessation aid (Varenicline – Champix). A discussion with regard to how the client is getting on with medication has taken place with the advisor. I have noted the patient's current smoking status and any side effects experienced and additional notes will be written below.
If you think it is appropriate to continue for this client to use varenicline then we would be grateful if you would discuss this with the patient & supply varenicline (as recommended below) in-line with NYCC Varenicline PGD.
Smoking status: Abstinent for 0 2 4 6 8 10 weeks (please circle) (No more than 12 weeks supply)
Advisor Recommendation (delete/amend as applicable)
<ul> <li>Varenicline 1mg tablets (x 28 tablets) 2 weeks supply</li> </ul>
Varenicline 0.5mg tablets (x 28 tablets) 2 weeks supply
Yours sincerely,
Advisor signature
Advisor name:TelTel
Side effects experienced (if any?)
Additional Notes:

# Appendix 5 - Record of supply form only (Page 1 or 3)

# Form 1 – For Pharmacy Use Only (to be used by the pharmacy to record varenicline supply)

# Record of supply form only – PGD trained Pharmacist

Note: only supply varenicline if you have followed all the guidance under the PGD

Client ID no	
Name of Client:	DOB:/
GP name/practice:	
Record for each issue  • Date of consultation  • Name of Pharmacist  • Sig of Pharmacist	Action taken  (Include quantity, strength and dose of varenicline supplied. Client to sign.)
Date: 1	SUPPLY: Y / N (25 tablet Starter Pack)
Name: Sig:	Client Signature:
Date: 2 (between day 10 – 14) Name: Sig:	SUPPLY: Y / N (1mg x 28 tablets continuation pack) OR (0.5mg x 56 tablets continuation pack for low strength due to side effects)  — Client verifies they are quit at this point
	Client Signature:
Date: 3 (between day 21 – 28) Name:	SUPPLY: Y / N (1mg x 28 tablets continuation pack) OR (0.5mg x 56 tabs continuation pack for low strength due to side effects)
Sig:	Client Signature:
Date: 4 (between day 35 – 42) Name:	SUPPLY: Y / N (1mg x 28 tablets continuation pack) OR (0.5mg x 56 tabs continuation pack for low strength due to side effects)
Sig:	Client Signature:
Date: 5 (between day 49 – 56) Name:	SUPPLY: Y / N (1mg x 28 tabs continuation pack) OR (0.5mg x 56 tablets continuation pack for low strength due to side effects)
Sig:	Client Signature:
Date: 6 (between day 63 – 70) Name: Sig:	SUPPLY: Y / N (1mg x 28 tablets continuation pack) OR (0.5mg x 56 tablets continuation pack for low strength due to side effects)
	Client Signature:

# Appendix 5 - Record of supply form only - continued (Page 2 of 3)

Declaration for 1<sup>st</sup> two week supply of varenicline (Week 1):

Note	Clients that do not have to pay must fill in parts 1 and 3. Those who pay must fill in parts 2 and 3. Clients who are not exempt are required to pay one prescription charge per item, (e.g. maximum two charges per voucher)									
Part 1 - Client Exemption Declaration Indicate exemption category (using 'X' mark). The client doesn't have to pay because he/she:										
A B C D E F	is under 16 years of age  is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time education  is 60 years of age or over  has a valid maternity exemption certificate  has a valid medical exemption certificate  M  has a valid prescription pre-payment certificate  S  S  Sudded in an award of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related ESA, In				has a valid War Pension exemption certificate is named on a current HC2 charges certificate *gets Income Support or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) * gets income-based Jobseeker's Allowance * is entitled to, or named on, on a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate * has a partner who gets Pension Credit guarantee credit (PCGC)					
	iate action may be taken. I confirm on (for clients who do not have			rmation I	I have give	en on this for	m is correct a	and com	plete	. Now Sign and fill in Part 3
Part 2	I have paid	£							No	w sign and fill in Part 3
Part 3	Client signature here:						Date:	/		/
Declarat	tion for 2 <sup>nd</sup> two week	supply of vare	nicli	ne:						
Note	Clients that do not have to pay to pay one prescription charge						ts 2 and 3. Cli	ients wh	no are	e not exempt are required
Part 1 - C	lient Exemption Declaration	n Indicate exemption	n cate	egory (us	sing 'X' m	ark). The cli	ent doesn't h	nave to p	pay b	ecause he/she:
not, appropr	is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time education L is named on a current HC2 charges certificate is 60 years of age or over H *gets Income Support or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESD) has a valid maternity exemption certificate K *gets income-based Jobseeker's Allowance has a valid medical exemption certificate M *is entitled to, or named on, on a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate					dit Exemption Certificate redit (PCGC)				
Part 2	I have paid	£	- 1111 01	macioni	nave give		III IS COIT CCC	and com		ow sign and fill in Part 3
Part 3	Client signature here:						Date:	/		/
Declarat	tion for 3 <sup>rd</sup> two week	supply:								
Note	Clients that do not have to pay to pay one prescription charge						ts 2 and 3. Cli	ients wh	no are	e not exempt are required
Part 1 - C	lient Exemption Declaration	Indicate exemption	n cate	egory (us	sing 'X' m	ark). The cli	ent doesn't h	nave to p	pay b	ecause he/she:
A B C D E F	is under 16 years of age  is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time education  is 60 years of age or over  has a valid maternity exemption certificate  has a valid medical exemption certificate  has a valid prescription pre-payment certificate  The service of the servic					dit Exemption Certificate				
not, appropr	*I am included in an award of income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income-related ESA, Income Support, Pension Credit Guarantee Credit or Tax Credit. I understand that if it is not, appropriate action may be taken. I confirm proper entitlement to exemption.  Declaration (for clients who do not have to pay): I declare that the information I have given on this form is correct and complete. Now Sign and fill in Part 3									
Part 2	I have paid	£	- 111101	-macion I	nave give	en on this for	iii is confect 8	and COM		ow sign and fill in Part 3
Part 3	Client signature here:	-					Date:	/	140	/
	Cherre Signature rierer	6					30101	,		·



# Appendix 5 - Record of supply form only - continued (Page 3 of 3)

Declaration for 4<sup>th</sup> two week supply:

	Clients that do not have to pa	av must fill in parts 1 an	d 3. T	hose wh	o nav must fill in nar	ts 2 and 3. Clie	ents who	are not	exempt	are required
Note	to pay one prescription charg							u. c	CACITIP!	are required
Part 1 -	Client Exemption Declaration	n Indicate exemptio	n cat	egory (u	sing 'X' mark). The cl	ient doesn't h	ave to pa	y becau	se he/sh	ne:
A B C D E F *I am incluent, appropri	is under 16 years of age is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time edu is 60 years of age or over has a valid maternity exempt has a valid medical exemptio has a valid prescription pre-payme ded in an award of income-based Job priate action may be taken. I confirm	has a valid War Pension exemption certificate is named on a current HC2 charges certificate *gets Income Support or income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) * gets income-based Jobseeker's Allowance * is entitled to, or named on, on a valid NHS Tax Credit Exemption Certificate * has a partner who gets Pension Credit guarantee credit (PCGC) come Support, Pension Credit Guarantee Credit or Tax Credit. I understand that if it is I have given on this form is correct and complete. Now Sign and fill in Part 3  Now sign and fill in Part 3								
Part 3	Client signature here:	/				Date:	/	/		
A B C D E F	Part 1 - Client Exemption Declaration Indicate exemption category (using 'X' mark). The client doesn't have to pay because he/she:  A is under 16 years of age B is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time education C is 60 years of age or over B has a valid maternity exemption certificate B whas a valid maternity exemption certificate C has a valid medical exemption certificate C is 60 years of age or over C is 60 years of age or							Allowance (ESA) ertificate		
Part 2	I have paid	£						Now si	gn and	fill in Part 3
Part 3	Client signature here:	<i>P</i>			·	Date:	/	/		
Part 1 -  A B C D E F *I am incluinot, appropri	clients that do not have to part to pay one prescription charge  Client Exemption Declaration  is under 16 years of age  is 16, 17 or 18 and in full-time eductions as a valid maternity exempt has a valid medical exemption has a valid prescription pre-payme ded in an award of income-based Job priate action may be taken. I confirm this income (for clients who do not have	y must fill in parts 1 and the per item, (e.g. maxim  Indicate exemptio  cation  ion certificate in certificate int certificate seeker's Allowance, Income- proper entitlement to exem	n cate G L H K M S	vo chargegory (use	sing 'X' mark). The cli has a valid War Pensior is named on a current if *gets Income Support of * gets income-based Jo * is entitled to, or name * has a partner who gets come Support, Pension Come	ent doesn't had exemption cert and exemption cert and exemption cert are income-related by the company of the certain	ave to par ificate d Employn ance NHS Tax Cr guarantee Credit or Ti	y because ment and redit Exer e credit (F ax Credit.	Support A mption Ce PCGC) I underst	e: Allowance (ESA) ertificate and that if it is
Part 3	Client signature here:	<i>i</i>				Date:	/	/		
	0						-	-		ALLER

### **Appendix 6 – Further reading for pharmacists**

- Gibbons, R.D & Mann, J.J.: Varenicline, Smoking Cessation, and Neuropsychiatric Adverse Events; *Am J Psychiatry*. Dec 20 2012: AiA 1-8.
- Thomas, K.H. et al: Smoking cessation treatment and risk of depression, suicide, and self-harm in the Clinical Practice Research Datalink: prospective cohort study; *BMJ* 2013;347:f5704.
- Foulds, J. et al. Effect of Varenicline on Individual Nicotine Withdrawal Symptoms: A Combined Analysis of Eight Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trials; *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, Volume 15, Number 11 (November 2013) 1849–1857.