



Tobacco Cessation Clinic Enhancement Program

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The Tobacco Cessation Clinic Enhancement Program supports clinic staff and physicians by providing training and resources to improve tobacco cessation services for their patients.

According to The Health Consequences of Smoking— 50 Years of Progress: A Report of the Surgeon General, tobacco use is still the leading cause of preventable death in the United States, killing more than 480,000 people a year. Recent data from the 2020 U.S. Surgeon General’s Report reveals 70% of people who smoke are interested in quitting, yet according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 7% are successful at quitting.

OVERVIEW

Health systems should consider a comprehensive approach to address tobacco use behaviors among their patients. When a health system increases awareness of available resources with every tobacco user, at every visit, it can significantly increase patient’s tobacco cessation attempts.

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center has created the **Tobacco Cessation Clinic Enhancement Program** to help health clinics that provide service to underinsured and underserved patients create a tobacco-free culture on their campuses. All activities use best practices and intervention strategies that reflect one of the three evidence-based actions of Policy, Education and Services.

EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION AREAS:



POLICY



EDUCATION



SERVICES

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES



POLICY:

Adopt, implement and enforce a campus-wide **tobacco-free policy**.



EDUCATION:

Host a **virtual training** for clinic leadership and/or staff on ways to incorporate tobacco cessation into the clinic.



EDUCATION:

Train a clinic champion to become a **Tobacco Treatment Specialist**.



SERVICES:

Establish a **Nicotine Replacement Therapy distribution system**.



SERVICES:

Create a **tobacco cessation screening and referral process** to direct patients to cessation services, such as a tobacco quitline, preferably through an Electronic Health Record System.

BENEFITS

Through these activities, the health clinic will:

- Become equipped with the skills and strategies to better support and treat patients' tobacco and nicotine addictions.
- Create a healthy tobacco and vape-free environment.
- Build a supportive culture for healthy living.
- Encourage tobacco cessation attempts in their community.