

Varenicline service

**NOW
LIVE!**

What is it?

North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) has launched a new community pharmacy-led varenicline service. Accredited pharmacies will supply varenicline under a Patient Group Direction (PGD) for adults (18+) who are motivated to quit and are actively engaged with the local Stop Smoking Service.

How it works?

Varenicline works by reducing cravings and withdrawal symptoms, making it easier for smokers to quit successfully. Evidence shows that the medication significantly increases quit rates compared to willpower alone or nicotine replacement therapy.



This information is intended for North East Lincolnshire GP and Practice Manager.

Key points for GPs:

- No GP prescribing required – clinical intervention and dispensing of drugs via pharmacy under PGD.
- GPs will receive notification of initial supply via PharmOutcomes within two working days and will be informed of quit attempt and outcome.
- GP referral to NELC Wellbeing Service for patients who wish for more information about support available and to make a quit attempt and use this medication.
- Varenicline is supplied as part of a 12-week programme, with regular reviews (extended programme in certain circumstances)
- Patients must remain engaged in behavioural support via stop smoking provision for treatment to continue.
- Varenicline cannot be used alongside Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT).

This service aims to increase access, reduce smoking prevalence, and support local efforts to tackle tobacco-related harm.

Please make all patients aware that stop smoking support is available via North East Lincolnshire Council's Wellbeing Service.

How to refer:

GPs can refer directly via SystemOne.

Alternatively, you can call **(01472) 325500** or email: **wellbeingservice@nelincs.gov.uk**

