

## Pharmacist FAQ on the Tobacco Quit Card and Counselling (TQCC) Program

A [Letter to Manitoba Pharmacies](#) has been prepared for all community pharmacies in Manitoba. Answers to potential questions from pharmacies are below.

- 1) What is the Tobacco Quit Card and Counselling (TQCC) Program? Who can participate and how do participants access the program?
  - The TQCC program is an ongoing program funded by the Government of Manitoba.
  - The program provides counselling and up to \$300 in nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) to low-income patients of participating clinics across Manitoba. See more, including specific eligibility criteria and how participants access the program, at: [www.sharedhealthmb.ca/TQCC](http://www.sharedhealthmb.ca/TQCC).
  - Participants in the program who have received a \$300 Quit Card and are not able to complete their quit using one Card, may receive another. This takes place at the discretion of the Tobacco Educator providing the counselling.
- 2) Can persons who are looking to reduce their tobacco/nicotine use, but not ready to quit, access this program?
  - An eligibility criterion for the program is that participants be ready to start a quit attempt in the next 30 days. However, this can include starting a reduction plan within the next 30 days. Final determination of eligibility is at the discretion of the Tobacco Educator working with the client.
- 3) Must prospective participants smoke cigarettes in order to be eligible, or may they be exclusively using non-cigarette forms of nicotine (e.g. chew, snuff, vape, etc.)?
  - Participants may be using any form of nicotine when they enter the program, including vaping e-cigarettes that contain nicotine.
- 4) For pharmacists dispensing NRT under this program, are there any restrictions in terms of type of NRT covered or brand (e.g. brand name versus generic)?
  - All forms of NRT available in Manitoba are covered: patch, gum, lozenge, inhaler, and oral mist. Brand name and generic products are included. A specific list of the products covered including DINs/PINs are included in the [Letter to Manitoba Pharmacies](#) and on each Quit Card.
- 5) What is the reimbursement to pharmacies dispensing NRT under this program? Are there any restrictions or dispensing fee caps?
  - Drug costs are covered. Dispensing fees are covered up to a maximum of \$13. Pharmacies are legally entitled to pass on an amount to the participant as a co-

pay to cover any remaining amount of dispensing fee amount owing. Pharmacies are encouraged to consider waiving any such fee difference in consideration of the fact that the demographic for this program is low-income Manitobans. Upon enrollment in the program, clients are informed they may shop around for a pharmacy that will not require a fee higher than what is covered by the Quit Card.

- 6) What documentation, if any, are pharmacies required to maintain under this program?
  - There are no documentation requirements beyond those normally required for routine dispensing.
- 7) Beyond the NRT provided, what counselling is provided as part of this program and who provides it?
  - Clinical staff of Manitoba's five health regions provide the counselling and Quit Cards. A minimum of 3 counselling sessions are required to be provided (an initial, 1-month and 6-month counselling session). Teams are encouraged to provide more if time permits and to refer participants to the [Commit to Quit](#) group program, which is a free 5-week program accessible to all Manitobans and provided live online several times per year. If no dates are listed at the link above, participants can call 1-877-979-9355 or email [wellness@ierha.ca](mailto:wellness@ierha.ca).
  - Clinical staff are of various health professional backgrounds and receive additional training to develop competency as a Tobacco Educator. Training courses are accredited by the Canadian Network for Respiratory Care (CNRC).
- 8) Can pharmacists refer individuals to this program?
  - Pharmacists may discuss the program and refer interested individuals to go to the website at or ask their doctor or nurse practitioner for a referral. Depending on the RHA, participants may need to be a patient of a participating clinic. Access details for each RHA are provided on the website: [www.sharedhealthmb.ca/TQCC](http://www.sharedhealthmb.ca/TQCC), including a list of participating clinics.
- 9) Can participants of this program also participate in other funded smoking cessation programs such as Quit Smoking With Your Manitoba Pharmacist?
  - There is no barrier to participating in this program and other programs.
  - Please see the list of [Resources to Stop Smoking – English](#) and [French](#).
- 10) If a patient is participating in the Tobacco Quit Card and Counselling Program AND Quit Smoking With Your Manitoba Pharmacist, how should coordination of benefits be applied between the "Quit Card" and QSWYMP's "product subsidy"?

- If an individual presents at a pharmacy with a Quit Card, please process the Card and support the individual to carry out the instructions provided by their Tobacco Educator.
- If they present at a pharmacy that provides the QSWYMP program, and are not a current participant in the TQCC program, provide the QSWYMP program. Exceptions to this may be made if individuals presenting at pharmacies are low income Manitobans and are not confident entering the QSWYMP program due to concerns that a subsidy of only \$100 is offered.
- If a client is enrolled in both the TQCC program and the QSWYMP program, the Quit Card may be accessed prior to the \$100 product subsidy under QSWYMP.

11) Who can I contact if I still have questions?

- See contact details for your RHA are available at:  
[www.sharedhealthmb.ca/TQCC](http://www.sharedhealthmb.ca/TQCC). Or you may reach out by email to:  
[primarycare@sharedhealthmb.ca](mailto:primarycare@sharedhealthmb.ca)