The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Professions Licensure

239 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114

Tel: 617-973-0800

TTY : 617-973-0988

[www.mass.gov/dph/boards](http://www.mass.gov/dph/boards)



**MEMORANDUM**

MARYLOU SUDDERS

Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH Commissioner

CHARLES D. BAKER

Governor

KARYN E. POLITO

Lieutenant Governor

TO: Massachusetts Pharmacists and Pharmacies

FROM: Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy

DATE: December 18, 2019

**RE: UPDATE to the dispensing of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products**

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On November 27, 2019, Governor Charles D. Baker signed *An Act Modernizing Tobacco Control* into law. The Governor’s prior declaration banning the sale of e-cigarettes and vaping products ended on December 11, 2019. As a result, the statewide Standing Order for NRT products is no longer in effect.

Although the Standing Order is no longer valid, pharmacists are encouraged to assist patients in their smoking cessation efforts by recommending NRT products either over-the-counter or by prescription. In order to provide NRT products by prescription, pharmacists must contact each patient’s healthcare provider for a patient-specific prescription. The pharmacy should make a reasonable effort to determine if the patient’s insurance covers the selected NRT product.

Pharmacists can play a vital role in providing counseling and important information on smoking cessation to patients. Patients should be encouraged to access available information through the Massachusetts Smokers’ Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.

For additional information, see: [mass.gov/newtobaccolaw](https://www.mass.gov/guides/2019-tobacco-control-law)