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: October 11, 2019

**RE: Reminder—Dispensing of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products via standing order**

On September 24, the Baker/Polito Administration implemented a four-month [ban on e-cigarettes and vaping products](https://www.mass.gov/guides/vaping-public-health-emergency) while a nationwide investigation of severe lung disease cases associated with these products takes place.

Thank you for the critical role you play in helping people who want to quit e-cigarettes, vapes, or other tobacco products by dispensing Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) products through the [Commissioner’s Order issued by the Department of Public Health](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/09/24/Order-of-the-Commissioner-of-Public-Health-9-24-19_0.pdf) that facilitates insurance coverage for these products. Below is information to assist you in helping patients access NRT:

* The [Standing Order](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2019/09/25/NRT-Standing-Order-9-24-19.pdf) covers NRT products for those age 18 or older with proper identification.
* NRT products may be dispensed to those **under** **age 18 with a prescription** from their health care provider.
* You should make a reasonable effort to determine if the purchaser’s insurance covers the selected NRT product.
* The FDA-approved, over the counter NRT product should be processed under the statewide Standing Order using the manufacturer’s FDA approved dosing.

We have included a flyer that can be posted at your pharmacy counter to help patients understand their options. You can also direct customers who want to quit e-cigarettes, vapes, or other tobacco products to the Massachusetts Smokers’ Helpline at (800) QUIT-NOW for help and resources in both English and Spanish (interpreter services are available for other languages).

For guidance on dispensing NRT, consult the [Guide to Pharmacotherapy in Tobacco Treatment](https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us/PROG-TOB/TC2485.html). Download or order it free of charge from the Massachusetts [Health Promotion Clearinghouse](https://massclearinghouse.ehs.state.ma.us).