



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

CHARLES D. BAKER
Governor

KARYN E. POLITO
Lieutenant Governor

Tel: 617-973-0800
TTY : 617-973-0988
www.mass.gov/dph/boards

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

TO: Massachusetts Pharmacists and Pharmacies

FROM: Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy

DATE: September 24, 2019

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

On September 24, 2019, Governor Charles D. Baker issued a declaration that a public health emergency exists in the Commonwealth due to severe lung disease associated with the use of e-cigarettes and vaping products and the epidemic of e-cigarette use among youths. In response, the Commissioner of Public Health, with the approval of the Governor and the Public Health Council pursuant to M.G.L. c. 17, §2A, issued an order expanding access to federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved, over-the-counter (OTC) nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) products including gum, lozenges and patches, through a statewide Standing Order that facilitates insurance coverage for these products.

A copy of the Statewide Standing Order is attached to this Memorandum.

Dispensing Nicotine Replacement Therapy Products:

- The purchaser must be 18 years or older with proper identification.
- The pharmacy must make a reasonable effort to determine if the purchaser's insurance covers the selected NRT product.
- The pharmacy should make available information about the Massachusetts Smokers' Helpline at 1-800-QUIT-NOW.
- The FDA-approved, OTC NRT product should be processed under the statewide Standing Order using the manufacturer's FDA approved dosing.