

Goals and Objectives of the Guideline

The overarching goal of this document is to provide evidence-informed guidance for the assessment and management of tobacco use and dependence across all sectors and programs of the WRHA. More specifically:

- To recognize that tobacco use, and particularly tobacco dependence, is an addiction (a chronic, relapsing condition) that needs to be managed over the long-term
- To consistently identify patients/clients who are tobacco users
- To ensure prompt, appropriate, and consistent assessment and management of tobacco use and dependence, both for temporary abstinence from tobacco as well as for permanent cessation
- To inform the development of educational materials related to the management of tobacco use and dependence
- To decrease the prevalence of tobacco use within the WRHA
- To decrease the number of hospitalized patients who experience untreated nicotine withdrawal

Target Population

This guideline targets the whole population who live or receive health services within the Winnipeg Health Region, in order to identify those who use tobacco. With respect to the management of tobacco use and dependence, this guideline specifically targets those who use tobacco in order to provide support to them and their families.

Target Audience

This guideline was developed for use by all health care providers, including direct care staff, policy makers, educators and administrators. This guideline is applicable to all members of the interprofessional team.