



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

MEMORANDUM

MARYLOU SUDDERS
Secretary

MONICA BHAREL, MD, MPH
Commissioner

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.

Standing Order for Dispensing Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) Products

This Standing Order is issued pursuant to the September 24, 2019 Order of the Commissioner of Public Health, pursuant to Governor Baker's September 24, 2019 Declaration of a Public Health Emergency due to severe lung disease associated with the use of e-cigarettes and vaping products and the epidemic of e-cigarette use among youths. The Commissioner's Order expands 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. The pharmacy must make a reasonable effort to determine if the purchaser's insurance covers the selected NRT product.

This Standing Order authorizes licensed pharmacists to dispense medically appropriate NRT products to a person 18 years or older with proper identification who requires the products in connection with smoking cessation or vaping cessation. The Standing Order applies to FDA-approved, OTC NRT products including gum, lozenges and patches. Pharmacists are authorized to create a prescription with this Standing Order using the manufacturer's FDA approved dosing instructions.

	September 24, 2019
Physician's Signature	Date
Alexander Y. Walley, MD, MSc	Mass. Lic. #221133
Physician's Name and MA License No. (print legibly)	