



To: Community Pharmacists

From: Provincial Tobacco Cessation Coordinator, Chief Public Health Office

**CC: Dr. Heather Morrison, Chief Public Health Officer
Dr. David Sabapathy, Deputy Chief Public Health Officer**

Re: PEI Smoking Cessation Program Update

Date: April 15, 2026

This memo provides an update on the PEI Smoking Cessation Program (SCP), including:

- Enrollment data
- How to use the Population Health Data Management System (PHDMS)
- Information regarding eligibility and unaffiliated patients
- Resources

Enrollment

Since community pharmacies joined the program on October 21, 2024, 1,595 Island residents have enrolled through pharmacies and 1,370 through other healthcare providers (as of March 31, 2026). Thank you for your partnership in supporting Island residents on their journey to become smoke-free.

Using PHDMS (Enrollment and Record Submission)

The implementation of the PHDMS has gone well to date and is supporting a more consistent and efficient process for enrolling patients and submitting records for the SCP.

Pharmacists must be registered with PHDMS to enroll patients in the SCP. To register, email quitsmoking@gov.pe.ca and include the pharmacy location, pharmacist name, and work email address. The following steps outline how to enroll a patient in the SCP using the PHDMS:

1. **Enrolling Patients:** Search for patient using their PHN. If not listed, select New Patient (patient dropdown) → enter PHN → click Retrieve. If the patient is found in the Drug Information System, details will auto-populate; if not, manually enter PHN → click Save.

2. **Creating a New Assessment:** Open the Patient File → select New Record (bottom right) → click Save. Complete the Consultation and Action Plan tabs. If the patient already has an active record within the same enrollment year, contact the Program Coordinator before proceeding.
3. **Submitting Action Plan Forms:** When submitting the Action Plan, select Save and Submit. A pop-up window will open to email the form to Pharmacare for enrollment.
4. **Early Re-enrollment:** Patients may enroll once per calendar year. Early re-enrollment may be approved under special circumstances. Please contact the Program Coordinator (information below) if you have questions about early re-enrollment.

Eligibility Criteria

1. **Program Billing (Updated):** The special authorization period has been extended from 22 weeks to 26 weeks. Coverage begins on the first day of enrollment, and all eligible product fills must be dispensed within 26 weeks of the first fill.
2. **Course of Treatment:** Coverage is limited to one continuous course of treatment per enrollment year for an eligible product.

Unaffiliated Patients

If an unaffiliated patient enrolls through a Primary Care Network and requires a prescription medication, they may be referred to a pharmacy. If the patient is already active in the PHDMS, contact the Program Coordinator. If a new SCP assessment is required, a duplicate assessment may be completed, with the \$25 assessment fee covered under the SCP.

Resources

- Tools, resources, and training modules for providers are available through the Health PEI Staff Resource Center: <https://src.healthpei.ca/smoking-cessation>
- Quit Kits are available to pharmacies to distribute to clients. See the link above for details on what is included in a Quit Kit. To request Quit Kits, contact the Program Coordinator.
- More information about the SCP is available at the link [here](#)
- Smoker's Helpline: Additional support is available to anyone through the Smoker's Helpline at 1-866-366-3667.

Attachments:

1. Pharmacare Billing Guide
2. Sample Tapering Schedule (updated)
3. PHDMS Reference Guide

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Webpage: [Smoking Cessation Program](#)