

Making Smokefree Britain a reality:

Ensuring the healthcare community is armed with the facts about vaping

Overview

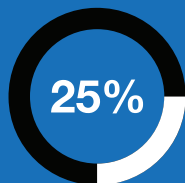
Freedom of Information data from 17 NHS Trusts—covering more than 150 hospitals—has revealed an inconsistent approach to smoking cessation training for medical professionals.

An FOI investigation undertaken by UKVIA found a quarter of surveyed trusts lack mandatory training and two offer none at all. It also revealed discrepancies in training renewal requirements, guidance on quitting tools and on attitudes towards vaping.

The UKVIA is now urging NHS Trusts to adopt a unified approach to smoking cessation training and a consistent stance on vaping, highlighting the crucial role of doctors, nurses, GPs, and clinicians in achieving a smokefree future and educating patients about vaping's reduced-risk profile and effectiveness as a stop-smoking tool.

This need is especially urgent given widespread misperceptions about vaping and a potential advertising ban under the Tobacco and Vapes Bill. The key findings and other critical facts include:

Key Findings



25% of respondents don't offer any mandatory smoking cessation training.

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of the respondents don't offer smoking cessation training of any kind.



Training renewal policies vary widely, with some trusts recommending updates only every **five years** and others having no requirements.

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trusts confirmed they recommend/provide vaping products in some capacity.

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trusts explicitly stated they do not recommend or provide vaping products.

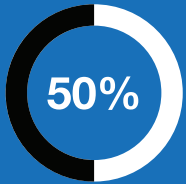
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trusts said they don't have a formal policy in place or are awaiting national guidance.



The UKVIA has created a special healthcare hub on its website where healthcare professionals and patients with smoking conditions can download a range of resource materials about transitioning from smoking to vaping.

Key Facts



of all smokers wrongly and worryingly believe vaping is as or more harmful than smoking. Only one third understand it is less harmful.

ASH UK, 2024

Vaping poses a **‘small fraction of the risks’** of smoking.

OHID, 2022

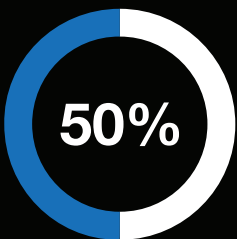


Vaping is amongst the **‘most effective’** stop smoking tools available to adult smokers.

**£500
million**

is the amount The NHS could save per year if just half of England’s smokers made the switch

Brunel University London, 2023



of all successful quit attempts over the past five years involved a vape.

ASH UK, 2024

“The government must provide accurate and consistent information to healthcare professionals on vaping, to promote the benefits of switching to vaping and to dismantle longstanding myths.”

The Khan review, 2022