

# MAKE IT EASIER TO HELP YOUR PATIENTS QUIT TOBACCO.

Incorporate 'Ask. Advise. Refer.' into  
your electronic health records system.





## **ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORDS (EHRs) MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR EVERYONE.**

It's no secret that EHRs can save time and paperwork, reduce errors and streamline the billing process. But did you know they can also make it easier to help patients kick the tobacco habit?

### **THE E-TOBACCO PROTOCOL IS SIMPLE TO IMPLEMENT AND USE.**

The **e-Tobacco Protocol** incorporates the successful 'Ask. Advise. Refer.' method into your EHR system. It makes recording tobacco use at every patient visit a simple, routine step during the checking and recording of vital signs.

This protocol not only prompts the doctor or appropriate staff

member to ask the patient about tobacco use, but it also helps him or her assess the patient's interest in quitting and, if the patient is interested, connects the patient with an effective tobacco-cessation service.

By incorporating the e-Tobacco Protocol into an EHR system, connecting the patient with a cessation service no longer requires filling out paperwork and faxing forms after the patient has left. Instead, the connection is made automatically while the patient is still in the clinic.



**Making Connections:**  
Public Health & Primary Care



**YesQuit.org**



## THE BENEFITS ARE HUGE.

As part of an EHR system, the e-Tobacco Protocol can help meet the required Meaningful Use guidelines by documenting patients' tobacco status while saving more lives more quickly. It can streamline patient data collection and dissemination, and enhance the effectiveness of tobacco-cessation services.

In addition, health care practitioners following the 'Ask. Advise. Refer.' steps have found that although some patients do not want to discuss quitting tobacco during their first appointment, they will ask about the process during return visits.

Smoking is a leading cause of hospitalizations and re-hospitalizations; therefore, effective tobacco-cessation interventions may also increase bed availability and reduce wait times.

### READY FOR A GUIDE? USE OUR INTERACTIVE TOOL.

Visit [YesQuit.org](http://YesQuit.org) to use an interactive tool that covers important steps you can take toward implementing an EHR system that includes the e-Tobacco Protocol.

