

Smoking cessation: health system challenges and opportunities

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ABSTRACT

The systematic integration of evidence-based tobacco treatment has yet to be broadly viewed as a standard-of-care. The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control recommends the provision of support for tobacco cessation. We argue that the provision of smoking cessation services in clinical settings is a fundamental clinical responsibility and permits the opportunity to more effectively assist with cessation. The role of clinicians in prioritising smoking cessation is essential in all settings. Clinical benefits of implementing cessation services in hospital settings have been recognised for three decades—but have not been consistently provided. The Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation has used an 'organisational change' approach to its introduction and has served as the basis for the introduction of cessation programmes in hospital and primary care settings in Canada and elsewhere. The significance of smoking cessation dwarfs that of many preventive interventions in primary care. Compelling evidence attests to the importance of providing cessation services as part of cancer treatment, but implementation of such programmes has been slow. We recognise that the provision of such services must reflect the realities and resources of a particular health system. In low-income and middle-income countries, access to treatment facilities pose unique challenges. The integration of cessation programmes with tuberculosis control services may offer opportunities; and standardisation of peri-operative care to include smoking cessation may not require additional resources. Mobile phones afford unique opportunities for interactive cessation programming. Health system change is fundamental to improving the provision of cessation services; clinicians can be powerful advocates for such change.

INTRODUCTION

Smoking cessation is arguably the most powerful, cost-effective intervention available in clinical settings for the primary and secondary prevention of disease, disability and death.^{1–4} The continued carnage, and enormous costs, that result from global tobacco addiction make tobacco control and smoking cessation fundamental public-health priorities.^{5–6} That one-sixth of all non-communicable disease deaths can be attributed to smoking, and that smokers consume a markedly disproportionate share of expensive healthcare resources underscore the importance of robust approaches to the treatment of tobacco addiction in clinical facilities. Notwithstanding such evidence, the systematic integration of evidence-based tobacco treatment interventions in clinical settings—both hospital and primary care—has yet to be widely viewed as

a standard-of-care. We affirm that the provision of smoking cessation services in clinical settings is a fundamental clinical responsibility and affords the opportunity to more efficiently and effectively assist with cessation. It is important to recognise that our experience and perspectives reflect practice in hospital and primary care settings in a high-income nation. Regrettably, despite considerable progress, the delivery of cessation services in clinical settings in our own communities is far from universal.

We acknowledge that the provision of smoking cessation services must be addressed in a manner commensurate with available resources and the structure of a particular health system.

The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)—a legally-binding, multilateral treaty signed by 182 countries—has significantly impacted tobacco control since its introduction in 2005.⁷ An important element of the FCTC, Article 14, recommends the provision of evidence-based support for tobacco cessation. Progress in implementing Article 14 has been slow.⁸ WHO reports regularly on progress in implementing the elements of the FCTC by assessing progress in six activities (Monitoring tobacco use, Protecting, Offering cessation assistance, Warning of tobacco's dangers, Enforcement of advertising bans and Raising taxes (MPOWER)). In its most recent report, WHO notes that 'the number of countries adopting comprehensive tobacco-cessation measures lags behind the other MPOWER measures'.⁹ To be successful in addressing this challenge requires 'implementing policies that transform systems of care to better address tobacco use and dependence, promoting evidence-based treatments for tobacco cessation and implementing policies that are clinically focused and promote cessation'.³ Government support and the influence of accreditation agencies can play fundamental roles in stimulating and supporting the delivery of such services in clinical settings. Such leadership notwithstanding, it has been noted that the introduction of standards and accreditation criteria require their adoption and implementation by hospitals and clinical facilities—adoption that is not always forthcoming.¹⁰ We recognise that the model of health system present in any nation will influence the scope and style of cessation services that can be provided. The FCTC affords an opportunity for Member States to implement smoking-cessation services at all levels of their health systems. In low-income and middle-income (LMIC) countries, access to treatment facilities and medications pose unique challenges. Developing solutions specific to the needs of LMICs 'is a key to effective tobacco control'.^{11–12} An understanding of the cultural factors that motivate



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cessation is essential to enhance the development and efficacy of cessation programmes.¹³ In many settings, the integration of smoking cessation programmes with tuberculosis control services affords specific opportunity.¹⁴ The need 'especially in LMICs to place a greater spotlight on smoking cessation after a cancer diagnosis' has been emphasised.¹⁵ Standardisation of peri-operative care to include smoking cessation is feasible 'even with limited resources'.¹⁶ The widespread availability of mobile phones in LMICs affords unique opportunities to support cessation and connectivity to other cessation resources (mCessation) but evidence of their effectiveness is unclear and merits further study.¹⁷

The role of clinicians in making a priority of smoking cessation has been recognised as central to ending the tobacco pandemic¹⁸; the need and opportunity for systematic approaches to the delivery of smoking-cessation services in clinical environments have frequently been identified.^{3 19–22} Estimates of the substantial impact the introduction of such approaches would have on rates of hospitalisation, clinical outcomes and healthcare spending have been published.^{23 24} Yet the identification and documentation of smoking status, and the provision of cessation assistance in clinical settings are often more serendipitous than systematic. Ironically, the conspicuous absence of 'smoking cessation' as an element of the clinical-treatment guidelines for many smoking-related diseases has recently been noted.²⁵ Lack of training and lack of time are often reported by clinical staff as impediments to the delivery of smoking-cessation treatment,^{26 27} and the cost of providing cessation services is often cited as an obstacle by administrators despite evidence of the cost-effectiveness of such important clinical programmes.^{28 29} Opportunities abound within hospital, primary care and specialty care settings to ensure the delivery of systematic, evidence-based cessation programmes.²⁰ If we are to advance in the tobacco 'End Game', optimisation of cessation services is essential; and clinicians can play an important role by advocating for their introduction.

SMOKING CESSATION IN HOSPITAL SETTINGS

Systematic approaches to cessation in hospital settings were recognised as providing important clinical benefits 30 years ago.^{30 31} Such recognition notwithstanding, evidence-based smoking cessation treatments are not consistently provided in hospital settings—prompting one author to wonder when hospitals will 'do the right thing'?³² Illness can be a powerful motivation to quit. The provision of cessation medication in hospital, accompanied by bedside support can forestall the discomfort of nicotine withdrawal while permitting the initiation of a smoking cessation attempt, and ongoing support can be provided following discharge.^{33–35} There is substantial evidence regarding the efficacy of hospital-based cessation interventions in reducing rates of smoking in both the short term and long term.³⁶ Almost 50 years ago, it was noted that hospitalisation following myocardial infarction afforded a unique opportunity to successfully assist with smoking cessation.³⁷ The substantial role that tobacco addiction plays in cardiac morbidity and mortality has been recognised for decades.³⁸ Multiple investigators have identified the very significant clinical benefits that follow the delivery of smoking cessation in cardiac settings.^{39–45} Moreover, the advantages of hospital smoking cessation programmes have been clearly documented across an array of clinical disciplines: addressing smoking among surgical patients^{46–48}; combating peri-operative complications by anaesthesiologists^{49 50}; reducing the multiple smoking-related complications following orthopaedic procedures^{51–57}; demonstrating the benefits of cessation

services in psychiatric settings^{58–60} and identifying opportunities to deliver tobacco-dependence treatment in emergency departments.^{61 62}

THE OTTAWA MODEL FOR SMOKING CESSATION

It has been recognised that the successful introduction of a smoking cessation programme in hospital settings requires a concerted, well-organised effort to ensure the integration of the elements necessary for a viable and effective clinical service.⁶³ The Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation (OMSC) developed at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, successfully used an 'organisational change' approach to its introduction, and has since become the basis of multiple successful cessation programmes in Canada and elsewhere.^{40 64 65} The OMSC has been designed using knowledge, principles and 'best practices' drawn from the fields of tobacco control, implementation science, quality improvement and organisational change. The model ensures the identification and documentation of the smoking status of all admitted patients, prompts an offer of smoking cessation assistance using evidence-based best practice, provides for the follow-up of patients attempting cessation post-discharge and has demonstrated high long-term cessation rates.⁶⁴ A robust evaluation of the OMSC in 14 Ontario (Canada) hospitals showed a substantial reduction in 30-day, 1-year and 2-year healthcare usage as reflected in reduced rates of readmission and emergency department visits following implementation.²³ The OMSC has also been demonstrated to be cost-effective from the hospital-payer perspective with low intervention costs in contrast to the costs of readmissions for smoking-related illnesses.²⁴ The adoption (and effectiveness) of models like the OMSC can be enhanced when healthcare funders introduce performance expectations regarding smoking cessation in funding agreements with hospitals and other clinical providers.⁶⁶

SMOKING CESSATION IN PRIMARY CARE AND GENERAL PRACTICE SETTINGS

Numerous international clinical practice guidelines have identified primary-care settings as important sites for cessation assistance.^{2 67–72} The rates at which simple advice to quit smoking is delivered by primary-care practitioners vary widely.^{73–75 76} The rates at which actual assistance with cessation using evidence-based treatment, including pharmacotherapy and counselling, is delivered are suboptimal in most settings.^{73 74 76–79}

The impact of successful smoking cessation dwarfs that of many other commonly provided preventive interventions in primary care (table 1).^{1 2} However, many clinicians find it challenging to deliver evidence-based tobacco treatment in busy primary-care settings. The majority have not received training in how to support the delivery of evidence-based tobacco treatments to their patients.⁸⁰ Other barriers limiting the delivery of tobacco treatment in primary care include: a lack of time; lack of confidence in addressing cessation with patients; outdated attitudes regarding the nature of tobacco addiction and the role of primary care in addressing tobacco use; lack of practice supports to identify smokers and the absence of effective performance incentives (box 1).^{81–85}

There is good evidence demonstrating that training primary-care clinicians in smoking-cessation delivery increases the rate of tobacco treatment.^{86 87} There is emerging evidence that introducing smoking-cessation protocols that are supported by electronic medical-record 'prompts' and templates increase rate of tobacco-treatment delivery in primary care.^{88 89} Interventions that facilitate immediate, easy access to affordable

Table 1 Comparison of the number needed to treat (NNT) to prevent one death among clinical interventions delivered in primary care

Intervention	NNT
Smoking cessation	
Brief advice	40
Intensive behavioural support with	
Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)	23*/46†
Varenicline	10*/20†
Statins as primary prevention	107
Antihypertension treatment for mild hypertension	700
Screening for cervical cancer	1140
Mammography	205
Papanicolaou smear	534
Pneumococcal vaccine	716

Modified from: Critchley and Capewell¹; Van Schayck *et al.*²

*NNT to have one person quit smoking.

†NNT to prevent one death.

(ideally cost-free) pharmacotherapy and behavioural support from others in a practice setting (usually practice nurses or a community-based cessation service) have been found to be effective in increasing rates of cessation among smokers in primary care settings.^{86 87}

While evidence concerning the role of provider incentives and performance feedback when delivered as stand-alone strategies is unclear, performance measurement is key to identifying practice gaps and supporting quality improvement.^{71 86 87 90} The most promising strategies for increasing performance in the delivery of tobacco-dependence treatment in primary care settings are multicomponent interventions designed to address the multiple barriers that impede treatment delivery.^{71 86 87 90 91}

THE OTTAWA MODEL FOR SMOKING CESSATION IN PRIMARY CARE

The OMSC has been adapted for use in primary care practices and has been implemented in >200 group-based primary care practices in Ontario (Canada). The OMSC in primary care settings emphasises systematic, interdisciplinary collaboration permitting busy, primary care clinics to adopt the programme while enhancing both efficiency and effectiveness. Three evaluations of the OMSC in primary care settings have documented a significant increase in primary care provider delivery of evidence-based tobacco-dependence treatments.^{73 92 93} A pre-post evaluation of the first 32 family health teams (481 providers) in Ontario to implement the model found that the rate of delivery of the 3 As (Ask, Advise, Act) increased significantly following programme implementation (figure 1).⁹²

Box 1 Barriers to tobacco treatment delivery in primary care

Patient's motivation to quit and resistance.
Lack of clinician knowledge and skills.
Time constraints.
Smoking not considered a primary care priority.
Complexity of the intervention.
Lack of practice supports.
Clinician attitudes, beliefs, self-efficacy and practice norms.
Lack of incentives.
Lack of accountability.

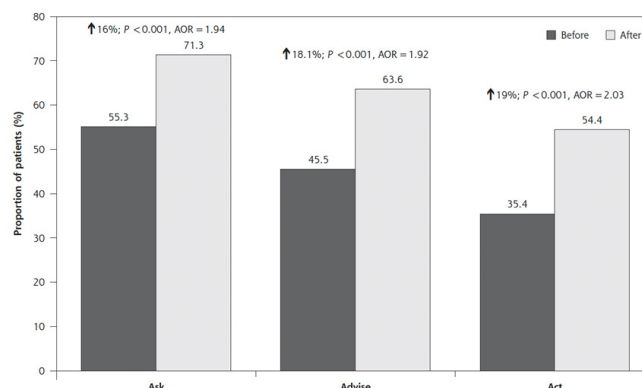


Figure 1 Clinic performance in the 3 As delivery before and after implementation of OMSC. Note: The AORs presented control for clinic-level and provider-level variance between clusters, availability of cost-free nicotine replacement therapy, gender of the patient, self-reported time of first cigarette and purpose of visit; based on inclusion of 32 clinics and 481 providers. P values are based on the Wald statistic. 3 As, Ask, Advise, Act; AOR, adjusted OR; OMSC, Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation.

The Ottawa Model adapted for primary care includes two key elements specifically applicable in such practice settings: (1) an evidence-based tobacco treatment protocol that guides intervention delivery to patients using the 3 As model (table 2) and (2) practice-change supports to facilitate its high-quality implementation in healthcare organisations (figure 2). A suite of implementation supports is introduced to assist clinics with systematising tobacco treatment (table 3). These include training in the development of an evidence-based smoking cessation protocol; training for frontline staff (physicians, nurses, allied health professionals) in evidence-based tobacco treatment and the OMSC protocol; the provision of customised practice tools and resources (standardised documentation, medical directives, patient educational materials); electronic medical-record integration (which includes measurement capability); digital and telephone follow-up scripts and materials to complement face-to-face contact and, importantly, materials to support performance evaluation. Ongoing evaluation, and modification of the programme to meet the specific needs and circumstances of a particular practice setting, ensure that cessation services remain optimised.

CESSATION IN CANCER TREATMENT SETTINGS

The evidence that continued smoking after a diagnosis of cancer results in worse clinical outcomes is compelling.^{34 94 95} Smoking increases all-cause mortality, leads to greater treatment-related toxicity, reduces the efficacy of radiation and some systemic therapies and increases the incidence of second malignancies. Smoking cessation in oncology centres provides significant advantage to the patient with cancer. The 2014 US Surgeon General's report estimates that if patients stopped smoking after a cancer diagnosis cancer mortality could be reduced by 30%–40%.³⁴

Although the harms of continued smoking and the potential benefits of stopping have become better known in the oncology community, implementation of smoking cessation initiatives within cancer centres has been slow. Implementation has been impeded by myths that smokers would not be receptive to advice about quitting and concerns that raising the issue of cessation would undermine the relationship between the oncologist and

Table 2 The OMSC in primary care—Ask, Advise, Act model

Clinical practice	Responsible primary care team member(s)	Description
Ask (30 s)	Triage nurse/Medical assistant	Ask and document Include tobacco use question as one of the patient's vital signs: "Have you used any form of tobacco in the last 7 days?" "Have you used any form of tobacco in the past?"
Advise (2 min)	General practitioner/Nurse practitioner	Advise, offer support and refer ► Provide strong, personalised, non-judgmental advice to quit with offer of support. ► Arrange rapid referral to smoking cessation counsellor. ► Provide brief, periodic, motivational intervention to persons not ready to quit.
Act (20–30 min)	Smoking cessation counsellor (eg, nurse, nurse practitioner, pharmacist)	For patient who is ready to quit Quit plan visit: ► Strategic counselling; ► Pharmacotherapy; ► Follow-up (2–6 months). For patient who is not ready to quit ► Strategic counselling (reduce to quit/smoking reduction) pharmacotherapy; ► Follow-up; ► Self-help material.

OMSC, Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation.

their patient, especially if the issue is raised at the first consultation visit.⁹⁶ Oncologists often indicate that they lack training in smoking cessation pharmacotherapy and in how to effectively counsel persons who use tobacco.⁹⁵ A common refrain is that they are just too busy to address smoking cessation given the increasing complexity of the cancer care they are required to direct. In contrast, there is clear evidence that training oncology-care providers can have demonstrable impact on improving tobacco-treatment skills and tobacco-treatment delivery.⁹⁷

If oncologists are to achieve the best clinical outcomes for their patients, the oncology centres in which they work must implement strategies to ensure that all newly diagnosed patients with cancer are screened for smoking status, advised of the benefits of smoking cessation and referred to smoking cessation services. An 'opt out' approach to the provision of smoking-cessation care can distinctly enhance the ability to ensure patients receive the supports required to optimise their cancer care.⁹⁸ Furthermore, all patients with cancer should continue to have their smoking status monitored after the completion of treatment. Those who continue to use tobacco should be repeatedly encouraged to stop in order to reduce the risk of recurrence, second primaries and non-oncological tobacco-related illnesses, such as cardiovascular and chronic lung diseases.

Patients with cancer do expect their oncologists to ask about their smoking status.⁹⁹ In a survey of 501 cancer survivors at the Princess Margaret Hospital (Toronto, Canada), 96% were comfortable with being assessed and 87% felt that smoking cessation discussions should occur at the first visit. Patients have little or no idea of the negative impacts of continued smoking on cancer treatment outcomes—yet another reason why oncology care providers need to educate them on the importance of quitting before cancer treatment.¹⁰⁰

In 2012, Cancer Care Ontario, which at the time was responsible for managing the province's cancer services, introduced a framework for the implementation of smoking cessation in its 14 regional cancer centres.¹⁰¹ The elements of the framework included screening all new patients with cancer for their smoking status using standardised screening questions, provision of advice on the health benefits of smoking cessation and referral to smoking-cessation supports. Initially, referral was simply recommended but subsequently an 'opt out' approach was adopted and resulted in an increased proportion of individuals receiving cessation support.¹⁰² All cancer centres were required to identify a smoking-cessation champion and to commit to staff support and training. Cancer Care Ontario provided central administrative support. Regions determined that the intensity and location

	Before Intervention	After Intervention
Clinics with the OMSC 10 Best Practices implemented, by best practice, %		
1. Clinic task force formed	3.1	93.8
2. Clinic tobacco control protocol developed	0.0	96.9
3. Tobacco use queried and documented for all clinic patients	28.1	81.3
4. Training in tobacco dependence treatment offered to health care providers in last year	28.1	90.6
5. Staff trained and available to provide tobacco dependence treatment	59.4	96.9
6. Self-help materials readily available to patients, family members, and staff	68.8	90.6
7a. EMR or other real time prompt in place to inform clinician of patient smoking status	3.1	90.6
7b. EMR supports in place (smoking status identification, consult form, etc)	3.1	93.8
8. Process to follow-up tobacco users for at least 1 month after clinic visit in place	43.8	93.8
9. Process to evaluate quality or program implementation in place	3.1	71.9
10. Process to provide feedback to clinicians about performance in place	3.1	81.3
Average number of best practices implemented, No.	2.4	8.9
Clinics with 10 best practices implemented, %	0.0	59.3

Figure 2 Ten best practices for tobacco treatment delivery in primary care before and after implementation of OMSC in 32 family health teams. Based on data from 32 primary care practices. EMR, electronic medical record; OMSC, ottawa model for smoking cessation.

Table 3 Summary of OMSC multicomponent intervention components

Intervention components	Description
Outreach facilitation visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ A trained outreach facilitator worked with each primary care clinic over a 3-month period to implement the programme. ▶ A seven-step facilitation process was used to introduce the OMSC 10 best practices. Facilitators acted by supporting clinics to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – review current clinic practices in the delivery of evidence-based smoking-cessation intervention and complete needs assessment; – provide information and recommendations on the integration of evidence-based smoking-cessation strategies into clinical practice; – facilitate development of a clinic tobacco treatment protocol for integrating evidence-based smoking cessation strategies into all clinic appointments; – define roles and responsibilities of clinic staff in delivering evidence-based smoking-cessation treatments; – support communications and training activities for members of the clinic staff.
Training clinic staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Frontline physicians and nurse practitioners participated in a 3-hour training session that provided information and skills training in addressing tobacco use with patients in the context of a busy primary care practice setting. ▶ Key staff who would be responsible for delivering quit plan visits (eg, nurse, nurse practitioner or pharmacist) attended an intensive 1-day training session that taught them how to conduct the quit plan and follow-up visits based on evidence-based practice.
Standardised provider and patient tools	<p>All materials were designed to support intervention delivery and reduce the amount of face-to-face time required to support tobacco treatment delivery. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Patient Tobacco Use Survey to document smoking history. ▶ Checklist style Smoking Cessation Consult Form. ▶ Patient Quit Plan booklet for Smokers Ready to Quit. ▶ Booklet for Smokers Not Ready to Quit. ▶ Clinic waiting room posters and materials.
Real-time prompts and electronic medical record tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Real-time point-of-care reminders (eg, standard smoking status questions) were introduced and embedded in vital sign screening forms and prompts to deliver brief advice. ▶ Standardised forms embedded into electronic medical records to guide tobacco treatment delivery for advice, quit plan and follow-up visit.
Adjunct follow-up support and counselling	<p>Patient's ready to quit could be referred to the telephone-based Smoker's Follow-up System, which included five triage calls over a 2-month period delivered by Interactive Voice Response System. Patients struggling with their quit attempt received additional telephone-based support from trained smoking-cessation counsellors.</p>
Coaching and feedback session	<p>A supplemental 1.5-hour group-based coaching session was delivered approximately 4 weeks following the launch of the OMSC at their clinic. This was facilitated by a trained tobacco treatment specialist using a standardised facilitation guide. The performance coaching session was designed to increase provider self-efficacy in tobacco treatment delivery, identify personal barriers to tobacco treatment delivery and exchange experiences in addressing these barriers.</p>

of the interventions offered reflected available resources. Some centres relied exclusively on a provincial quit-line while others used in-house smoking cessation counsellors, hospital pharmacists and social workers or a combination of internal and external resources. Critical to the success of implementation was senior-level commitment and ongoing education of healthcare workers and patients regarding the importance of cessation. Monitoring of performance drove provincial screening rates above 70% and referral rates of smokers to 30%.

The COVID-19 pandemic spurred the use of virtual care and the capture of smoking status through phone or video patient registration and consultation. It also accelerated the deployment of provider and patient smoking-cessation learning materials and the development, at the Princess Margaret Hospital, of digital education prescriptions that direct patients to online smoking-cessation learning resources.¹⁰³

The Ontario initiative has spread across Canada through the leadership and funding of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and now, virtually all cancer centres screen patients with cancer for their smoking status and direct current smokers to cessation resources.^{104 105} The Cancer Center Cessation Initiative (C3I), part of the National Cancer Institute Cancer Moonshot programme, has similarly increased the spread of smoking cessation initiatives within major US cancer centres.^{106 107} In 2017, 22 cancer centres received 2 years of funding to implement smoking cessation programmes and in 2018 an additional 20 centres joined the initiative. C3I is designed to achieve a broad clinical impact by identifying patients with cancer who smoke, providing them with advice to quit, offering evidence-based cessation treatment and assessing treatment outcomes. C3I will help to identify how evidence-based tobacco interventions can best be introduced into clinical practice in cancer-treatment settings.

Despite the excellent progress in Canada and the USA, challenges remain in both countries and across the globe. It is essential that the culture within all cancer-treatment facilities changes to make smoking cessation an integral part of high-quality cancer treatment and care. Further progress would no doubt be accelerated in Canada by the introduction by Accreditation Canada of cancer-centre standards requiring screening of patients with cancer for their smoking status, the provision of advice on the health benefits of cessation and the referral of persons who use tobacco to smoking-cessation services. The implementation of such standards and public reporting of performance on these metrics would drive change and lead to better clinical outcomes for patients with cancer.

CONCLUSION

Health system change is fundamental if we are to effectively assist the large number of tobacco-dependent patients who present for care in various clinical facilities.¹⁰⁸ Notwithstanding the growing evidence of the effectiveness of smoking cessation programmes in a wide range of clinical settings and the demonstrable need for such services, it has been difficult to persuade administrators and healthcare funders of their value. Smoking has been mischaracterised by many as a 'habit' or a 'lifestyle choice' and there has been an indifference to the circumstances and needs of smokers. The cost of services is often cited as an obstacle to their introduction—despite evidence of the savings provided by cessation programmes.²³ Those attitudes are outdated and inaccurate. Funding agencies and governments can clearly influence the development and delivery of these services by defining programme expectations as a condition of funding.⁶⁶ Innovative approaches for ensuring the integration of smoking

What this paper adds

- ▶ A cogent description of the need for the systematic integration of smoking-cessation services in clinical settings.
- ▶ Evidence of the effectiveness of an 'organisational change' approach to the introduction of such services in hospital and other facilities.
- ▶ Reinforcement of the need to deliver smoking-cessation services in primary-care settings.
- ▶ Identification of the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation as a useful prototype for the implementation of cessation services.
- ▶ Affirmation of the powerful clinical impact of smoking-cessation services in oncology settings.
- ▶ Recognition of the role of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in galvanising the delivery of cessation services and the need for novel approaches to the delivery of smoking-cessation services in low-income and middle-income countries.

cessation into clinical protocols and treatment algorithms have been described.^{36–109} Clinicians can be powerful advocates for the establishment of such services and accreditation agencies can require that smoking cessation is seen as a contemporary 'standard-of-care'. But success will not be achieved without the commitment of senior administrators and clinical leaders, the development of team approaches to intervention delivery and a recognition of the need to integrate tobacco-related measures with quality-improvement processes.

In assessing the impact of tobacco dependence, it has been noted that 'it is difficult to identify any other condition that presents such a mix of lethality, prevalence and neglect, despite effective and readily available interventions'.^{19–66} If we are to successfully address the tobacco pandemic in clinical settings, we must end the years of neglect by adopting best practices and, implementing systematic approaches to the identification and treatment of smokers.

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