

Coding for Smoking, Vaping, E-Cigarette, and Heat-Not-Burn Device Use

Wondering how to code patients who vape, use e-cigarettes, or heat-not-burn tobacco products?

Although vaping is not smoking it is a health risk and should be recorded in clinical records. It is important to record **both** smoking and vaping status in the clinical record.

Dual monitoring supports better management and prevention of long-term conditions

Patients who have stopped smoking and are currently vaping exclusively can be coded as ex-smoking. Recording a person as ex-vaping has value, especially if the person is using vaping to quit smoking and will then quit vaping. Please see **Table 1**

Table 1: How to Code Smoking Status (including vaping or heat-not-burn use)

Patient behaviour	Code as
Vaping or using heat-not-burn products only, and has not smoked tobacco in the last 28 days	Ex-smoker
Vaping or using heat-not-burn products and currently smoking tobacco	Current smoker
Vaping or using heat-not-burn products but has never smoked tobacco	Never smoked

Please use the following guidance when recording smoking and vaping status **Table 2 and Table 3**:

Table 2: Ministry of Health; Recording Smoking Status [Recording smoking status](#)

Status	Definition	Read Code	Snomed Code
Never smoked	Someone who has not smoked more than 100 tobacco cigarettes in their lifetime and does not currently smoke	1371	2269190005
Current smoker	Someone who has smoked more than 100 tobacco cigarettes in their lifetime and has smoked tobacco in the last 28 days	137R	77176002
Ex-smoker	Someone who has smoked more than 100 tobacco cigarettes in their	137K	<12 months - 735128000

	lifetime but has not smoked in the last 28 days	137S	>12 months - 48031000119106
Brief advice provided	Advising them to stop smoking and offering cessation support. If brief advice is given via text, a response is required for it to count as brief advice given.	ZPSB.10	771155005
Referred to cessation support	Referral to Quitline or Stop Smoking Services (Ready Steady Quit or Living Smokefree). Note: giving patients' a phone number or flyer does not equal a referral. A referral is completing the stop smoking service referral form/ steps	ZPSC.10	395700008
Prescribed cessation medication	Prescribing nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), Champix or Zyban	ZPSC.20	713700008
Provided cessation behavioural support	Providing in house cessation support such as groups or 1:1 e.g. trigger management, relapse prevention	ZPSC.30	384742004
Declined cessation support	They do not wish to stop smoking or if they do want to quit but on their own	ZPSC90	57861000210104

Table 3: Ministry of Health; Recording Vaping Status [Recording vaping status](#)

Status		Read Code	Snomed Code
Currently vaping with nicotine		@MT0.09	785889008
Currently vaping without nicotine		@MT0.10	786063001
Currently vaping		@MT0.11	722499006

Ex-vaping for less than 1 year		@MT0.12	1137688001
Ex-vaping for more than 1 year		@MT0.13	1137692008
Trying to give up vaping		@MT0.14	1137691001
Never vaped		@MT0.15	1137690000

Further Information:

- [Vaping in Youth - Community HealthPathways Auckland Region | Te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau](#)
- [Smoking Cessation Advice - Community HealthPathways Auckland Region | Te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau](#)
- New England Journal of Medicine – e-cigarettes and vaping related disease - <https://www.nejm.org/vaping>
- Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Guidance for the Management of Electronic Cigarette Use (Vaping) in Adolescents and Adults - <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/resp.70066>
- Information for consumers on vaping- <https://vapingfacts.health.nz/>
- Quitline- <https://quit.org.nz/>