



NHS

Helping your patients to stop smoking with the aid of a vape.

Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions about vaping.

Joined Up Care Derbyshire



**Tobacco
Dependency
Programme**

Joined up care Derbyshire is the Derby and Derbyshire health and social care partnership for adults and children.

What is a vape?

A vape is a device that lets an individual inhale nicotine without most of the harmful effects of smoking.

They are also sometimes known as e-cigarettes.

Vapes do not contain tobacco, tar or carbon monoxide so they are less harmful than cigarettes.

How do they work?

Vapes work by heating up and creating a vapour from a solution that typically contains:

- Nicotine
- a liquid called propylene glycol and/or glycerine
- flavourings

As there is no burning involved, there is no smoke.

Are vapes safer than cigarettes?

Vapes are not risk free but are substantially less harmful than cigarettes

Vapes do not produce tar or carbon monoxide which are two of the most harmful elements in tobacco smoke.

Switching to vaping can reduce this risk while also reducing other people's exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke.

Vapes are not recommended for non-smokers and cannot be sold to people under 18 years old.

How effective are vapes at helping you to quit smoking?

A major clinical trial that ran in 2019 found that in local stop smoking services, a standard vape was twice as effective at helping smokers to quit compared with nicotine replacement therapy (NRT).*

*E-cigarettes compared with nicotine replacement therapy within the UK Stop Smoking Services: the TEC RCT. 2019





Are the chemicals used in vapes safe for my lungs?

You might have heard the term ‘popcorn lung’ when vapes are talked about.

Some e-liquid flavourings, used to provide a buttery flavour, contain the chemical diacetyl

At very high levels of exposure, this chemical can cause a serious lung disease called bronchiolitis obliterans.

However, diacetyl is banned as an ingredient from vapes and e-liquids in the UK.

Popcorn lung gained its name because it was first seen in workers in a popcorn factory.

Are vapes safe for people around me?

There's no evidence so far that vaping causes harm to other people.

This is in contrast to passive smoking (second-hand smoke), which is known to be very harmful to health.

Are vapes safe to use in pregnancy?

If your patient is pregnant, then licensed NRT products such as patches and gum are the recommended option to help them to stop smoking.

But if your patient is finding using a vape helpful for quitting and staying smoke-free, it's much safer for them and their baby than continuing to smoke.

Are vapes regulated, and how do we know what is in them?

The UK has some of the strictest regulation for vapes in the world.

All vape manufactures must notify the UK Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) of their products and provide a detailed list of all ingredients.

A collection of various vaping devices, including pens and tanks in red, black, blue, and yellow, arranged on a blue background.

NHS

Find out more at: www.ncsct.co.uk/publications/Vaping_briefing

The best way to stop smoking is with the support of a qualified stop smoking advisor.

They can advise your patient on, and supply them with, the most appropriate stop smoking medication and / or quitting aid.

Derbyshire residents can contact Live Life Better Derbyshire.

Call 0800 085 2299
www.livelifebetterderbyshire.org.uk

Derby city residents can contact Livewell.

Call 01332 641254
www.livewellderby.co.uk

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A Derby City Council Project