

# Reducing Tobacco Use and Secondhand Smoke Exposure: Provider Reminders When Used Alone

---

## Task Force Finding

### Intervention Definition

Provider reminders involve efforts to identify tobacco product-using patients and to prompt providers to discuss and/or advise patients on cessation. Techniques by which reminders are delivered include chart stickers, vital sign stamps, medical record flow sheets, and checklists. The content of provider reminders can vary, and provider reminder systems are often combined with other interventions, such as provider education and patient education. These multicomponent interventions are considered separately below.

### Task Force Finding (February 2000)

Based on sufficient scientific evidence of effectiveness in increasing provider delivery of advice to quit, provider reminders are recommended (1) whether used alone or as part of a multicomponent intervention (see “Provider reminder plus provider education, with or without patient education”), (2) across a range of intervention characteristics (chart stickers, checklists, and flowcharts), and (3) in a variety of clinical settings and populations.

### Publications

Hopkins DP, Briss PA, Ricard CJ. Reviews of evidence regarding interventions to reduce tobacco use and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;20(2S):16–66.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Recommendations regarding interventions to reduce tobacco use and exposure to environmental tobacco smoke. *Am J Prev Med* 2001;20(2S):10–5.

Task Force on Community Preventive Services. Tobacco. In: Zaza S, Briss PA, Harris KW, eds. *The Guide to Community Preventive Services: What Works to Promote Health?* Atlanta (GA): Oxford University Press;2005:3-79.

---

### Disclaimer

The findings and conclusions on this page are those of the Community Preventive Services Task Force and do not necessarily represent those of CDC. Task Force evidence-based recommendations are not mandates for compliance or spending. Instead, they provide information and options for decision makers and stakeholders to consider when determining which programs, services, and policies best meet the needs, preferences, available resources, and constraints of their constituents.

Document last updated August 4, 2015