



You Can Quit Smoking!

*For more information about
quitting smoking, contact:*

**UAMS Patient Education Department
(501) 686-8084**

**SOS Quitline
1-800-QUIT-NOW
(1-800-784-8669)**

UAMS
MEDICAL
CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

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Little Rock, Arkansas 72205

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Consumer Guide

Learn how to get help to quit smoking and improve your chances of quitting.

This document explains the best ways for you to quit as well as new treatments to help. It lists new medications that can double or triple your chances of quitting and quitting for good. It also tells about ways to avoid relapses and talks about concerns you may have about quitting, including weight gain.

All information is based on scientific research about what will give you the best chances of quitting.

Nicotine: A Powerful Addiction

If you have tried to quit smoking, you know how hard it can be. It is hard because nicotine is a very addictive drug. For some people, it can be as addictive as heroin or cocaine.

No “Butts” About It...

Quitting takes hard work and a lot of effort, but you CAN quit smoking!



Quitting is hard. Usually people make 2 or 3 tries, or more, before finally being able to quit. Each time you try to quit, you can learn about what helps and what hurts.

Good Reasons for Quitting

Quitting smoking is one of the most important things you will ever do:

- You will live longer and live better.
- Quitting will lower your chance of having a heart attack, stroke, or cancer.
- If you are pregnant, quitting smoking will improve your chances of having a healthy baby.
- The people you live with, especially your children, will be healthier.
- You will have extra money to spend on things other than cigarettes.

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Five Keys for Quitting

Studies have shown that these five steps will help you quit and quit for good. You have the best chances of quitting if you use them together:

1. Get ready.
2. Get support.
3. Learn new skills and behaviors.
4. Get medication and use it correctly.
5. Be prepared for relapse or difficult situations.

1. Get Ready



- Set a quit date.
- Change your environment.
 1. Get rid of ALL cigarettes and ashtrays in your home, car, and place of work.
 2. Don't let people smoke in your home.
- Review your past attempts to quit. Think about what worked and what did not.
- Once you quit, don't smoke – NOT EVEN A PUFF!

2. Get Support and Encouragement

Studies have shown that you have a better chance of being successful if you have help. You can get support in many ways:

- Tell your family, friends, and coworkers that you are going to quit and want their support. Ask them not to smoke around you or leave cigarettes out.
- Talk to your health care provider (for example, doctor, dentist, nurse, pharmacist, psychologist, or smoking counselor).
- Get individual, group, or telephone counseling. The more counseling you have, the better your chances are of quitting. Programs are given at local hospitals and health centers. Call your local health department for information about programs in your area.



3. Learn New Skills and Behaviors

- Try to distract yourself from urges to smoke. Talk to someone, go for a walk, or get busy with a task.
- When you first try to quit, change your routine. Use a different route to work. Drink tea instead of coffee. Eat breakfast in a different place.
- Do something to reduce your stress. Take a hot bath, exercise, or read a book.
- Plan something enjoyable to do every day.



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4. Get Medication and Use It Correctly



Medications can help you stop smoking and lessen the urge to smoke.

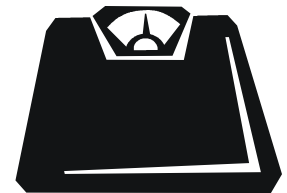
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved five medications to help you quit smoking:
 1. Bupropion SR – *Available by prescription.*
 2. Nicotine gum – *Available over-the-counter.*
 3. Nicotine inhaler – *Available by prescription.*
 4. Nicotine nasal spray – *Available by prescription.*
 5. Nicotine patch – *Available by prescription and over-the-counter.*
 6. Nicotine lozenge – *Available over-the-counter.*
 7. Varenicline – *Available by prescription.*

- Ask your health care provider for advice and carefully read the information on the package.
- All of these medications will more or less double your chances of quitting and quitting for good.
- Everyone who is trying to quit may benefit from using a medication. If you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant, nursing, under age 18, smoking fewer than 10 cigarettes per day, or have a medical condition, talk to your doctor or other health care provider before taking medications.

5. Be Prepared for Relapse or Difficult Situations

Most relapses occur within the first 3 months after quitting. Don't be discouraged if you start smoking again. Remember, most people try several times before they finally quit. Here are some difficult situations to watch for:

- **Alcohol.** Avoid drinking alcohol. Drinking lowers your chances of success.
- **Other smokers.** Being around smoking can make you want to smoke.
- **Weight gain.** Many smokers will gain weight when they quit, usually less than 10 pounds. Eat a healthy diet and stay active. Don't let weight gain distract you from your main goal – quitting smoking. Some quit-smoking medications may help delay weight gain.
- **Bad mood or depression.** There are a lot of ways to improve your mood other than smoking.



If you are having problems with any of these situations, talk to your doctor or other health care provider.

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Special Situations or Conditions

Studies suggest that everyone can quit smoking. Your situation or condition can give you a special reason to quit.

- **Pregnant women/new mothers:** By quitting, you protect your baby's health and your own.
- **Hospitalized patients:** By quitting, you reduce health problems and help healing.
- **Heart attack patients:** By quitting, you reduce your risk of a second heart attack.
- **Lung, head, and neck cancer patients:** By quitting, you reduce your chance of a second cancer.
- **Parents of children and adolescents:** By quitting, you protect your children and adolescents from illnesses caused by second-hand smoke.

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Questions to Think About

Think about the following questions before you try to stop smoking. You may want to talk about your answers with your health care provider.

1. Why do you want to quit?
2. When you tried to quit in the past, what helped and what didn't?
3. What will be the most difficult situations for you after you quit? How will you plan to handle them?
4. Who can help you through the tough times? Your family? Friends? Health care provider?
5. What pleasures do you get from smoking? What ways can you still get pleasure if you quit?

Here are some questions to ask your health care provider:

1. How can you help me to be successful at quitting?
2. What medication do you think would be best for me and how should I take it?
3. What should I do if I need more help?
4. What is smoking withdrawal like? How can I get information on withdrawal?

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Smoking Cessation Resources - National

- **American Heart Association**
7272 Greenville Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75231
Tel: (800) AHA-USA1 [(800) 242-8721]
- **American Lung Association**
1740 Broadway, 14th Floor
New York, New York 10019
Tel: (212) 315-8700
- **American Cancer Society**
1599 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329
Tel: (404) 320-3333
- **National Cancer Institute**
Bethesda, Maryland 20892
Tel: 1-(800) 4-CANCER [1-(800)-422-6237]

Smoking Cessation Resources - Local

- **Arkansas Employee Assistance Program**
1123 South University Ave.
Little Rock, Arkansas 72204-1609
Tel: (501) 686-2588
FAX: (501) 686-2576
Toll-free: (800) 542-6021
- **UAMS Medical Center**
Patient Education Department
4301 W. Markham, #526
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
Tel: (501) 686-8084
FAX: (501) 296-1576
- **SOS Quitline**
Quit Line: 1-800-QUIT-NOW
[1-800-784-8669]
- **Cancer Information Service**
Quit Line: 1-800-4-CANCER
[1-(800)-422-6237]

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Online Resources

- **Smoke Free**
www.smokefree.gov
Offers: online guide to quitting, materials, talk to an expert, etc.
- **WhyQuit?**
www.whyquit.com
Offers: smoking cessation resources, bulletin boards, etc.
- **The Stop Smoking Center**
www.stopsmokingcenter.net
Offers: nicotine dependency test, online support group, quitting buddies, quitting tips, etc.
- **Medline Plus**
www.medlineplus.gov/tutorials
Offers: tutorial on smoking cessation facts
- **QuitNet**
www.quitnet.com
Offers: free membership, online support groups, resources, tools, email reminders, etc.
- **American Cancer Society**
www.lungusa.org
Offers: fact sheets, resources, etc.
- **Try to Quit**
www.trytoquit.org
Offers: quit wizard, quit calendar, quit plan, etc.